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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL Pages 16-18

Caring PoW staff rally to shoebox gifts appeal



Carrie Meredith with a car boot full of shoeboxes ready for delivery.

CARING ABMU staff have been doing their bit to bring some cheer to children suffering around the world – by filling shoeboxes full of gifts to be sent to little ones living in war-torn or famine-stricken countries.

Interim service manager for urology and breast services at Princess of Wales Hospital, Carrie Meredith, urged colleagues at the hospital and at the health board's Baglan headquarters to get involved.

She says she has been "overwhelmed" by support for the appeal which has been organised by Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit, Christian organisation providing church support and emergency relief and development assistance to suffering people around the world.

"The shoeboxes are filled with gifts for children who literally have nothing.

"I've had a huge response and will be delivering 30 boxes to one of the many drop-off points near my home and I know others are delivering theirs separately over the coming weeks too.

"I am so grateful to everybody who has taken the time and gone to the expense of fill a box, it's such a worthy cause," she said.

There is still time if you would like to get involved but shoeboxes – decorated and filled with toys, toiletries and schools supplies – need to be in by Friday, November 18. For more information and guidance about what to include go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk.

PENCOED BUFFS CELEBRATE WITH DONATIONS TO CHARITIES



Macmillan Cancer Support, £1,000 (accepted by Nicola Newhams, fundraising manager for the Bridgend area). See more on page 3.

THE RAOB (Buffs) Groes Lodge 1302, which has been based in Pencoed since 1909, recently held a presentation evening.

Still active after 108 years' service to local and national charities, 12 months ago it sold the club in the centre of Pencoed after nearly 60 years following declining membership.

The lodge is now based in the Pencoed Social Club, (British Legion) Hendre Road, Pencoed.

To mark the first year

anniversary at its new venue, Groes Lodge presented cheques to the value of £2,000 pounds to two charities.

The presentations were made on behalf of the lodge by secretary Bro Stuart Powell ROH, supported by nine other long-serving members – ranging from 45 to over 60 years' service to the order.

"Both parties thanked members of the RAOB for the unexpected generous donations," a spokesman reported.



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READERS' LETTERS

Brexit ruling and Bridgend

AFTER the Brexit ruling on Article 50 in the High Court, I should like to ask Mrs Madeleine Moon MP how she would vote on the issue?

I hope she will bear in mind that Bridgend county voted overwhelmingly to leave the EU. Is she going to obey the wishes of her constituents?

If not, she will find she may well lose her majority at the next election!
Ann Turner, Bridgend.

Remembrance Day – a poem

AS the wind blows
through the poppy
leaves,
and a quiet breeze blows
through the trees,
We remember the men
who went to war,
Who packed up their
cases and walked
through their door.
They left their homes
and families too,
and the numbers that
returned were only few.
They fought with their
enemy until death was
near
and a lot of them died

with their hearts full of
fear.
They had laid down their
lives that we may have
peace,
and live our lives in a
golden fleece.
So we must never forget
the days of war,
and the men that died to
change the law.
We must think of the past
as part of our lives,
and Remembrance Day,
and those that died.
Russell Spencer
Downe.

'THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME'

TO all the people who so kindly helped me when I fell in St Athan village on August 31, a huge 'thank you' for all that you did for me.

I don't know everyone's names, but you know who you are: especially Scott, Chelsea, Bernice and Lucy. I couldn't have got

through the three hours of waiting for an ambulance without you all.

I had an operation for a broken hip but am now recovering at home.

With all that goes on in this world, it is really reassuring that there are such kind people out there.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Carole Stuart-Torrie,
Gileston.

Help for the aged

AGE CYMRU offers free, confidential, impartial and bilingual expert advice service for over-50s in Wales.

If your readers want to talk to one of our expert advisers in English or Welsh, call us on 08000 223 444 between 9am and 5pm, from Monday to Friday or they can send an email to advice@agecymru.org.uk.

Ian Thomas,
Chief Executive, Age Cymru.

Poetry and rock with Peter Finch

ON Friday, November 18, popular and influential performance poet, author and rock fan, Peter Finch, will be read a range of poetry, together with extracts from his musical memoir *The Roots of Rock: From Cardiff to Mississippi and Back in Ewenny/Corntown Village Hall*.

With his style having been described as "just this side of chaos", Peter works in both traditional and experimental forms. Although best known for

his declamatory poetry readings, his creative work based on his native city of Cardiff, his editing of *Seren's Real* series, and his knowledge of the UK poetry publishing scene, this latest work, as the title suggests, traces the music scene from Cardiff to Mississippi and back again.

In addition to his performance, there will also be an open mic for budding poets/authors to share their works with the audience.

The event will begin at 7.30pm. The audience is invited to bring along their own drinks and the cost of entry is £5, payable on the

door (or reserved in advance from 01656 663878). Nibbles and good company are free of charge!

The venue is Ewenny Village Hall, an intimate setting with a capacity of up to 50 people. Originally the village school, this beautiful grade two listed building now holds community and arts events. The hall is situated on Corntown Road, Bridgend, CF35 5BG.

This event is the latest in the Ewenny Arts Festival series and is supported/part funded by Literature Wales.

Welsh folk dance
DAWNWYR
Penybont/Bridgend
Welsh Folk Dancers are holding a twmpath dawns (Welsh barn dance) in Coychurch this Saturday, November 12 at 7.30pm.

If you would like to join them, tickets are available at £6 from Cath, on 07811 306516 or Kay on 07749 831660; or just come along on the night. Bring your own drinks and nibbles!

The twmpath will be held at the Williams Memorial Hall in Coychurch, where Dawnswyr Penybont meet on Thursday nights to practice. New members are always welcome.

Art show
TONDU and District Art Society, which has at present 50 active members and also has a waiting list, meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig (CF32 9RF).

It holds exhibitions each year in the summer and winter at the centre. The exhibitions are free to the public, it also holds three (external) exhibitions at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. It arranges regular demonstrations and Saturday workshops by professional artists in the region throughout the year along with its own regular group art activities, and shows art DVDs.

Winter exhibition November 11 – 15 daily, 10am – 6pm; closed Sunday.

This year Tondy Primary School year-6 pupils, have been invited to enter a competition to design, shape and colour a bookmarker based on their favourite Roald

Dahl character.

The children's work will be on display during the exhibition period.

Maesteg town hall
NOTEWORTHY
mixed voice choir is holding a coffee morning and craft fair at the town hall next Saturday, September 12 from 10am to 1pm.

There will be live entertainment, Christmas gifts, cakes and other goodies for sale; entry is £3.

First Aid BRIDGEND
Communities First is organising a Level-2 free first aid course at Richard Price Centre, Llangeinor on Thursday, November 10th; this will enable the 'person in the street' the opportunity to gain essential skills for emergency situations.

It is also organising a Level-3 free paediatric first aid course on Friday, November 25 to enable people to know what to do, if one saw a child in need of first aid.

Both courses are free for members of the public who reside in a Bridgend Communities First area, and are from 9.15am to 3pm, with free lunch provided.

For more information, telephone Jenny on 01656 643693 / 07815 525017.

Ladies' choir
COR Merched Cwm Llynfi, (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir) is performing in a concert in the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Patrick, Monica Street, Maesteg, on Friday, November 25 at 7pm.

Tickets £6, available from church or choir members, or telephone 01656 742703.

It will be a ladies' night as the guest soloist will be Sally-Anne Kingsbury! All proceeds will go to the church restoration fund.

If interested in joining the choir, this

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

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concert would be the perfect opportunity to hear the ladies sing. They rehearse in the Catholic church every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm.

Tynryheol Primary
JOHN Ambani will be holding workshops to give parents ideas to help their children develop numerical skills.

The workshops will be good fun and informative and help give support to the child at home. They are taking place in the school hall on Thursday afternoons through November.

Jo gives a big 'thank you' to everyone who donated to the 'Make Some Noise!' Dress Loud charity day. The school raised £77 for Y Bont.

The following pupils have gained Star Awards:

Nursery: Oliver Watkins for trying hard to use descriptive words; reception: Caitlyn Evans for settling in so well; year-1: Madison Hale for being kind and sharing with her friends; year-2: Sophie Jones for taking great pride in planting her crocus and daffodil; year-3: Cale Taylor for completing a fantastic piece of work describing the Grand High Witch; year-4: Morgan Bator for excellent spelling and fantastic expression when reading; year-5: Logan Cinderby for being helpful to other children; year-5: Zoe Baird for always trying her best in every subject; year-6: Paige Penny for working quietly and consistently.

Bryntirion Infants

THE whole school comes together for daily lunchtime walks, and parents joining in with cookery, reading and play sessions.

Bryntirion Infants School has been hailed as one of the healthiest and happiest schools in the country. It has joined the select number of schools to have gained the National Quality Award

from the Welsh Government, as part of the Healthy Schools Wales scheme.

Assessors were particularly impressed with the way the entire school's 157 pupils go for a half a mile walk around the grounds after eating lunch each day, and also highlighted the way that all parents are encouraged to feel involved.

The school runs a daily free breakfast club, where tables are laid out with healthy food, such as fruit, wholemeal toast, sugar-free cereals and yoghurts, while healthy eating stays on the menu when parents are invited to come into the school to cook recipes with their children.

Parents are also welcome to join in with 'stay and play' sessions, or get involved with the weekly reading café too.

Assessors also praised the school for its work in promoting all things 'green'. Members of the school's eco-committee are proud of their exciting outdoor spaces which include a forest school area, a mud kitchen, a pirate ship and slide, and a mini-beast hotel.

Tondu Primary
PARENTS and friends of pupils in Mrs James' class, Dosbarth Tawe, can share in their class assembly this Thursday, November 10 at 10.20am.

Join them beforehand for a cup of tea or coffee and take part afterwards in a 'Linger & Learn' session with your child for half an hour of fun learning activities.

Friday, November 18 is 'Children In Need' day and pupils are invited to wear pyjamas and asked to bring £1 for the non-uniform day.

The PTA has organised a disco for pupils on November 24 from 5.30pm – 7pm, at Coleg Cymunedol Y

Dderwen. Please use the entrance down the steps/ramp from the car park, as the front entrance will not be open. There will be an entrance fee of £1 per pupil. Parents of children in nursery and reception must accompany them.

Young Singer
DUNRAVEN Welsh Young Singer Competition is organised by the Maesteg Gleemhen male choir, and application forms can be obtained from

secretary John Wines on 01656 739365, or from secondary schools in the Bridgend CBC area; they must be submitted by the end of November.

It is open to youngsters aged 11 upwards and heats are being held in Maesteg town hall on January 28, with the finals in the town hall on March 25 2017.

History talk
THE next meeting of Bridgend branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society is on November 21 at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig (CF32 9RF). Mrs Jackie Radford will deliver a talk on Marmaduke Tennant, Town Clerk for Aberavon (1862-1915); doors open 7pm, talk to start 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Nominations open for county's 'citizen awards'

DO you know someone who regularly goes the extra mile for others, is an outstanding charity fundraiser, or has put the local area on the map by achieving something special during 2016?

As the year comes to a close, the Mayor of Bridgend county borough is asking local residents to put forward their nominations of individuals, groups or businesses worthy of a Mayor's Citizenship Award.

Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Reg Jenkins, said: "We want to uncover the stories of those unsung heroes who are making an impact in our local communities, and give them the appreciation they deserve. Organised by BCBC, the awards are open to people who live in the county borough, as well as local groups and businesses based locally. Visit the Mayor's pages at www.bridgend.gov.uk to download a nomination form and find out more about the awards.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 27, 2017, and the award winners will be honoured at an event hosted by the Mayor at the Civic Offices in Bridgend in March.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
10 Thur	01.54	8.1	14.29	8.4
11 Fri	02.57	8.5	15.29	9.1
12 Sat	03.59	9.2	16.24	9.7
13 Sun	04.52	9.9	17.17	10.3
14 Mon	05.41	10.4	18.04	10.6
15 Tues	06.28	10.7	18.53	10.7
16 Wed	07.11	10.8	19.41	10.6
17 Thur	07.59	10.5	20.28	10.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Bufs' support for local causes



(Continued from page 1)
Head of School, Jeremy Evans, accepted the £1,000 cheque on behalf of Heronsbridge Special School, Bridgend.

Helen in line for top award after hospital career move

A HOSPITAL catering supervisor in line for a national award has embarked on a new career – after realising how much she loves talking to patients.

Helen Rees has worked at Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend since starting there as a catering assistant 18 years ago.

Earlier this year, Helen started a project to try to reduce the amount of food being wasted.

It involved chatting to patients on the wards – something Helen enjoyed so much she is now doing it full-time!

A few weeks ago, she began work with the patient advice and liaison service at Princess of Wales Hospital.

Known as PALS for short, the service involves providing hands-on support and advice for patients and their families. The team

listens to their questions, concerns and suggestions, taking immediate action to help sort out problems.

In the meantime, Helen has become one of only two Welsh finalists in Unison's inaugural 'Our Health Heroes' awards.

She was shortlisted in the operational services worker of the year category after being nominated for her passion and commitment to improving the hospital's catering services. This included her project to reduce waste.

After being named as a regional winner, Helen now goes through to the national final in London later this month.

She said: "We identified wards which had the most food wasted and spoke to patients to find out why they weren't eating it. I really enjoyed being in face-to-face contact with patients and trying to resolve their problems."

"For us, finding a solution was quite straightforward, but it meant so much to them, and that really does give you a buzz."

When a vacancy arose on the PALS team, Helen successfully applied and is already fully committed to her new role: "I've been here three weeks now and I've found it amazing. It's really interesting. The patients are always so friendly – I know I've made the right choice."

Helen has been put forward for an award before and, while she didn't make the shortlist, said she was pleased just to have been nominated.

"I was gobsmacked when I found out I had made the national final for the Unison awards. Even if I don't win, it's tremendous to have gone this far."

"Nutrition is very important for a patient's recovery and everyone in catering works so hard, but they don't often get the recognition they deserve."

"So this nomination is recognition for the entire department, not just for me personally."

ABMU workforce development officer Caroline Cameron, who nominated Helen for the Unison award, described her as a role model for the health board.

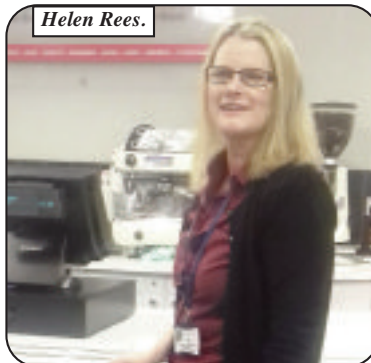
Princess of Wales Hospital service manager for medicine Catherine Roberts added: "Helen is a great individual who has a fantastic way with patients and colleagues."

"She will now continue her great work in the hospital in a different capacity, and the PALS team are delighted to have her."

The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony hosted at Unison's headquarters in Euston, London, on November 29.

People can vote for Helen to win the overall award for operational services worker of the year via www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/ohh-vote, until November 14.

Helen Rees.



Gold-medallist Aled visits Dogs Trust



Aled Davies with 'paralympup' Rhodrey.

BRIDGEND-born gold-medal winning Paralympian Aled Davies visited Dogs Trust Bridgend recently.

Aled was eager to meet up with as many dogs as possible, and received lots of licks from the rehoming centre's 'paralympup', Rhodrey, who has three legs, reported spokeswoman Kayla Maryon.

A big lover of running around, five-year-old terrier crossbreed has never let a missing leg hold him back – just like his human counterpart, Aled, who won big in the shot put at the Rio

Olympics.

The staff are now hoping that Rhodrey's meeting with his human equivalent will help launch him into a loving home of his own.

The staff gave Aled a tour of the centre, where he learnt more about the dogs in their care, as well as the work of Dogs Trust.

Aled said: "I've always wanted to come and visit Dogs Trust Bridgend and I'm so glad I have finally been able to."

"It's wonderful to see the dogs so happy, relaxed and loved and I'm sure they'll all find their 'forever homes' soon."

Marathon man Mel has become Bridgend's cross-country guru!

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend was visited at its recent breakfast meeting by Mr Mel James, organiser of the Bridgend Primary Schools Cross Country League.

He told members about his interest in running, which started with his first London Marathon at the age of 38! Since then, he has run several London Marathons with a best time of 2 hours 39 minutes and competed for the Welsh veteran team at shorter track events, winning several medals along the way.

Last year, he competed in the World Masters Athletics Championships in Lyon and reached the semi-finals of the 400 metres competition.

He was then selected for the Great Britain 4 x 400 metres team, which achieved a silver medal in the final, breaking the British record for an over-70 team.

He has become involved with the administration side of athletics and has held various offices, including Welsh team manager and is currently Chair of Welsh Masters Athletics and an executive member of the British Masters Athletic Federation.

Now at the age of 73, as well as still competing, he has taken on the responsibility of the Primary Schools Cross-Country League, this involves nearly all Bridgend Primary Schools with monthly meetings during the winter months with about 350 youngsters taking part in age group races.

A final summer event is held, at which trophies



Photograph shows Mel James (left) and past president of the Rotary Club of Bridgend, Alan Reeks, at last June's prizegiving ceremony of the Bridgend Primary Schools Cross Country League.

are presented to winning schools and inscribed replica running shoes presented to individual winners.

Mel thanked The Rotary Club of Bridgend for meeting the cost of trophies and presenting them to the children.

Rtn Dr Graham Haggood gave a vote of

thanks, advising that his daughter helps Mel by recording the results after the end of each race. He paid tribute to the dedication of Mel to his sport and particularly for his work in organising the Cross Country League, encouraging so many local youngsters to take part in athletics.

AM supporting 'Movember'

HUW Irranca-Davies AM is sprouting facial hair in support of Movember – to raise awareness and funds for research into prostate cancer.

The Movember Foundation raises funds for breakthrough research that enables men to live happier, healthier and longer lives.

The Ogmore AM said: "We all know people who have been affected with prostate cancer, but it is a condition that even today many are reluctant to talk about."

"I'm happy to play my part by growing facial hair to hopefully raise awareness of prostate cancer and any support will be greatly appreciated, whether it be a financial donation or if people could simply tweet/facebook my link below. I'd be hugely grateful."



Coffee and cake boost 'Epilepsy Action Cymru'

A FUNDRAISING event was held in Bridgend on October 31 to raise money for Epilepsy Action Cymru.

Nikki Gale, mother and owner of Valley Windows & Repairs, held a coffee and cake day at her home where numerous people popped in and out all day long to enjoy a coffee, a chat and some of the delicious cakes Nikki had on offer.

Nikki's son, Kieran, was diagnosed with epilepsy in June this year which has had an impact not only on Kieran's life, but that of his family. It was a busy day for Nikki, who said it was well worth the effort, as a very respectable £210 was raised!

It seems other members of the family are also doing their best

to raise money for Epilepsy Action Cymru as Keiran's sister, Paige, organised a raffle at work and raised another £40.

Epilepsy Action Cymru run a coffee and chat group in the Talk of the Town café, Nolton Street, Bridgend on the last Thursday of each month. Nikki is part of this group, so if anyone would like further information on coping with epilepsy, please come along. Further details can be obtained from Cynthia Bailey-Wood on 07811 219080.

If you would like to donate to Epilepsy Action Cymru you can do so at the following website: www.epilepsy.org.uk/involved/donations.

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Hip-hop Keiron pens 'A New Chapter'

A PERFORMING arts student, who couldn't walk or talk after a car crash three years ago, has recovered so well he's recorded a special new hip-hop track.

Keiron Farr suffered devastating head injuries in August 2013 and for a while it was touch and go whether he would pull through.

Thankfully, the 22-year-old is busy rebuilding his life and studying for a foundation degree in performing arts at Bridgend College.

Keiron wrote and

recorded numerous hip-hop songs before the accident.

Now his speech has improved to the point where he has been able to return to the studio to record 'A New Chapter', in which he describes the traumatic events in unflinching detail.

The "studio" was in fact a speech therapy room at Neath Port Talbot Hospital – the hospital where Keiron spent months recovering following emergency surgery in August 2013.

"I shattered the front of my skull, broke four vertebrae in my neck and sustained a traumatic

brain injury," said Keiron, who lives with parents Denise and Tony Farr in Brackla, Bridgend, and has a brother and sister.

"I was in a coma for seven or eight weeks. I couldn't walk or talk, eat or drink, and was fed and hydrated through a tube up my nose."

Keiron was initially taken to Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, then transferred by ambulance to Cardiff's University Hospital of Wales.

"Four members of staff went with him and they took him straight to surgery," said mum Denise. "He had part of his skull removed to relieve the pressure.

Shards had gone into his brain, so he had part of his brain taken out, too."

The following month, Keiron was transferred to the specialist neuro-rehabilitation ward at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

He explained: "I had to learn to walk again, which was particularly difficult. Before the crash I used to write, record and perform my own hip-hop music. I was very passionate about this so when I lost

the ability to speak, I was devastated."

While he was on the neuro-rehab ward, Keiron underwent speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy when he was well enough to go home that December, he continued his therapy with ABMU's traumatic brain injury service, TBIS.

A multidisciplinary team of health professionals, TBIS offers tailor-made rehabilitation programmes for people with moderate to severe brain injuries caused by trauma such as assaults and car crashes.

As part of its work it has developed community projects with various agencies. One was a project with Mumbles-based Learn Thru Music, which saw a group of patients write and record their own song.

Keiron was among them, having fought tirelessly to regain and improve his speech. He recalled: "My first word was a monotone, very laboured and quiet. I had to work extremely hard to get to where I am now."



Keiron Farr

STAFF RENEW HEALTH CARE PLEDGE... Maesteg staff remember the miners who helped to found their hospital

Chairman of Maesteg Hospital League of Friends John Thomas; lead nurse Anthony Porter; director of primary and community services Hilary Dover; senior ward sister Helen Bridgman and Martin Thomas from ABMU's Heritage Group with the plaque.



STAFF who took part in a special celebration to mark Maesteg Hospital's history have pledged to continue to deliver high quality healthcare to the local community.

They were among hundreds of people who marked the unveiling of a new plaque dedicated to miners who helped found the hospital more than a century ago.

Pit workers from throughout the Llynfi Valley donated a penny a week from their own wages to help pay for the building which opened in 1914.

Senior ward sister Helen Bridgman said: "We are honoured to have been able to attend the ceremony. It was very clear by the turnout at the parade just how much this hospital means to the community and how very special it is."

"We are enormously proud of its tradition of good healthcare and will do all we can to ensure that tradition continues and we care for those miners' families and friends."

The event was organised by the hospital's League of Friends which wanted to do something to mark the contributions made by the mining community.

The bronze plaque in the town's Market Square was unveiled by former miner Douglas Dixon and the league's Chairman John Thomas, who described the hospital as a focal point of the community.

Among the ABMU representatives who attended the ceremony were Director of Primary Care Hilary Dover, property manager Fiona Edwards and Martin Thomas, who

leads ABMU's Heritage Group which records the health board's history in the area.

He had worked with Douglas Neil, head of medical illustration, and the South Wales Miners' Library to recreate an eye-catching replica National Union of Mineworkers banner which was among those carried through the town during a parade of former miners, local dignitaries and members of the public before the unveiling.

He said: "This was a fantastic celebration of a remarkable achievement by the mining community. To be willing to donate what was then a significant part of their wages towards the project deserves recognition and the League of Friends have done a wonderful job making sure they get it."

"The accompanying exhibition of photos and artefacts from the hospital's past was also a great way of sharing its story with today's patients."

The hospital was originally run by the Red Cross and cared for injured soldiers as they returned from the First World War.

Now it is still a focal point for patients across the Llynfi Valley, offering day hospital, rehabilitation, outpatient and inpatient care as well as a GP practice. And the hospital is currently on the lookout for more registered nurses to join its team.

"We are very keen to recruit more members of staff and we hope that this celebration will help raise the profile of the hospital and remind people just how important health care is to this community," added Helen.

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I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4BB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Representations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objection/ suggestions may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an interest to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information list: 01656 843678.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1980
DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS
P16/081/FUL. Change of use from Class A2 to Class C4, including the installation of a fire escape stair, additional shower toilet facilities providing 5no. accommodation and the upgrading of the existing thermal elements of the existing building—12 Park Street Bridgend by Wood-pales

LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
P16/081/LB Retrospective application for 3no. exploratory holes in brickwork wall structure—14 Durneen Place Bridgend by H D Ltd
P16/081/LB Affix rear wall signage - 10-12 Durneen Place Bridgend by Deva-mide Solutions
P16/081/LB Replacement hard wood sash and aluminium windows—18 Durneen Place Bridgend by H D Ltd
RESPOND BY: 30/11/2016

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cyfarwyddwr Cofrestruethol
Cynnyddau 10-11-2016

Best ever concert in aid of Poppy Appeal at Garw Valley Life Centre

ANYONE who didn't make it to the annual band concert held at the Garw Valley Life Centre on October 29, missed a treat!

This was the 12th year the concert has been held in aid of the Poppy Appeal, and it must be said that it was the best so far.

The organiser of the concert, and secretary of the Garw Valley branch of the Royal British Legion, Mr 'Dixie' Dean, really 'pulled it off' this time, with The RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, Blaengarw Primary School choir, and special guests, Brize Norton Military Wives' Choir.

Special guests were two residents of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, known to all as Chelsea Pensioners. Also the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Mr Gwynfryn John and his partner; Chris Elmore, Ogmores MP and his partner, Bridie Sedgbeer; Huw Irranca-Davies, Ogmores AM, and his wife Joanna; newly-elected Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Huw David; Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend county borough; chairman of Garw Valley Community Council and consort, Mr Peter Wilson; district chairman of the Royal British Legion and his wife, Julie. There was also a Welsh Guardsman, Cory Jones, in attendance, who is from Pontycymer.

The evening started with the Muster of Standards, accompanied by the Royal British Legion March, enthusiastically welcomed by the audience. The band played two items 'Home of the Legends' and 'Cry me a River' with a cornet solo by Claire.

Brize Norton Military Wives' Choir sang two items: 'Salley Gardens' and 'Wherever You Are' - the song which brought the original Military Wives' Choir so much fame; the band continued with 'That's A'plenty',

followed by 'Film', including a baritone solo.

Blaengarw School pupils took centre-stage with two songs: 'Consider Yourself' and 'This Little Light of Mine' - with good audience participation; the Military Wives' Choir then sang 'Over the Rainbow', followed by the band's last item in the first half, 'Bubbles was a Cheerleader'.

Following the interval, the band played 'Irish Blessing', and the Military Wives' Choir sang 'Soldiers Farewell'.

Then came the Exhortation, the Last Post, two minutes' silence for the fallen, and then Reveille and Dedication followed by 'Abide with Me'.

Following other items by the band, Blaengarw School and the Brize Norton Military Wives' Choir, guests were invited to speak and singled out the children of Blaengarw School Choir.

President of the Garw Valley branch, Peter Cole, presented framed certificates of appreciation to Ken Terry, Parade Marshall, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Brize Norton Military Wives' Choir and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band.

The Band rounded off the evening with 'I'll Walk With God', followed by the Welsh national anthem.

Anyone who would like to join the branch (you do not have to have served in any of the armed forces), is very welcome at Blaengarw Rugby Club on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm.

I know that the 2017 annual band concert is already at the planning stage, so judging by this year's wonderful performance, I would advise you to get your tickets as soon as they come on sale next year!

TERESA JENKINS

Labour MP: "MORE HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM"

MADELINE MOON, Labour MP for Bridgend, is calling on the Government to do more to close the autism employment gap once and for all.

Over 100 MPs attended the launch of a new National Autistic Society report and campaign in Parliament on October 31, which highlights the levels of employment among autistic people and what employers and Government can do to close the autism employment gap.

However, this comes less than a month after Welsh Labour Assembly Members voted not to proceed with an Autism Bill proposed by Welsh Conservatives, much to the dismay of local campaigners and families of those with autism (The GEM, October 26). A specific Autism Act exists in England, but it does not affect, support or

protect people with autism in Wales.

Mrs Moon is backing the charity's campaign, calling on the Government to ensure autistic people can access specialist support to help them find and stay in work, and bring in a national programme to raise employers' awareness of the skills and potential of autistic people.

The parliamentary launch of the campaign comes on the same day as the launch of the Government's Work, Health and Disability green paper, which sets out its plans to help more people with disabilities and long term conditions into work.

The UK Government has pledged to halve the gap between disabled people's employment levels and the rest of the population's by increasing the disability employment rate from 47 per cent to 64 per cent. But the National Autistic

Society's latest research shows that the autism employment gap is even wider, with only 32 per cent in some form of work. The charity wants the Government to make sure that autistic people benefit from its pledge and double the number of autistic people in work if they're not to be left even further behind.

Mrs Moon said that she was proud to be backing the National Autistic Society's campaign which reveals that fewer than 16 per cent of autistic people are in full-time paid work and that this figure appears to have remained stubbornly low for the last decade.

"This clearly isn't good enough.

"Government and businesses need to work together to help increase the numbers of autistic people in work. We need to make sure that employers know this and are able to open their doors to autistic people."

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Ms Lee Terry - First floor flat, 12 Suffolk Place, Porthcawl - Alteration of window at first floor level and construction of new steel fire escape staircase at rear of property.

Mrs Beryl Gronow - 17 Heol Y Nant, Sarn - Ramped access arrangements from public footpath to front entrance.

Wales & West Housing Association - Parc Farm Buildings, Heol Spencer, Coity - Extend period for submission of reserved matters for P/11/881/OUT (14 residential units) by a further three years.

Fieldbay Ltd - North Lodge, Pen y Fai - Change use of single residential dwelling (C3) into a 10-bedroom assisted living care home (C2) and associated works including conversion of garage into three-bedroom existing annexe into two self-contained units, infill porch extension.

Stormy Down Recycling Ltd - Land adjacent to Stormy Down Quarry, Heol y Splott, Pyle - Approval of details for conditions 5 and 14 of P/14/830/FUL.

Hafod Housing Association - Land at Brocastle off A48, Brocastle - Crown raise and remove all dead wood to three beech trees, remove overhanging branches to poplar tree, remove all dead branches to ash tree at rear of woodland walk, fell group of ash trees next to seating area, fell outer stem of twin stemmed ash near seating area.

Mr Andrew Berry - 19 Penylan Avenue, Porthcawl - Rear single storey extension and side dormer extension.

Mr Phil Bowditch - Plot 14, land north of Abergarw Farm, Brynmynyn - Approval of details for conditions w, 4, 6 and 7 of P/16/192/RES.

Janett Welland - Bradford Cottage, Llangeinor - Repairs to existing outbuilding to make safe, landscaping and new double garage.

Wales & West Housing Association - 75 Llys Gwyn, Bridgend - Single storey extension to rear to provide a disabled accessible bedroom and shower room.

Bridgend Storewithus Ltd - Land off Parc Crescent, Waterton Industrial Estate, Waterton - Approval of details for conditions 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 14 of P/16/379/FUL.

Mr C Jones - 11 Bryn Dryslwyn, Broadlands, Bridgend - Single storey extension to side elevation, single storey porch to front elevation.

Mr and Mrs J Tee - Frondeg, Waterton Road, Coychurch - Part ground floor and first floor rear extension and detached double garage.

Mr Christopher Lavis - Highmeadows, Brynmynyn - Prior notification for a stone track from highway lane to area on holding used for agriculture - finished surface 3.20m wide.

The Rest (Porthcawl) Ltd - The Rest Convalescent Home, Rest Bay, Porthcawl - Approval of details for conditions 3 and 12 of P/11/782/LIS.

Notemachin UK Ltd - Unit 1, Market Street, Bridgend - Retention of an ATM installed through the wall to the left-hand side of the main entrance doors.

Incorporating the ATM fascia with black bezel surround with white internally illuminated lettering. Blue LED halo illumination to the ATM surround.

Deputy Chief Constable Matt Jukes said: "We are delighted

South Wales man became an anti-terrorism big gun

ALUN MAXWELL THOMAS, MPA, Assistant Chief Constable (Special Operations) with British Transport Police, London, was the guest speaker at the charity lunch held at the Great House Hotel and Restaurant with Jeremy Evans, headteacher, at Heronsbridge School, Bridgend, as compere.

The event was arranged by the Bridgend County Civic Charity Standing Committee and everyone who attended had a very interesting and informative talk.

Alun explained that he joined the South Wales Police Force in 1984 and has been stationed as a Constable in Sandfields, Port Talbot, Aberkenfig, Cymer, Bridgend and Cardiff and became Chief Superintendent of South Wales Police - Bridgend county and the Vale of Glamorgan.

He stated that he had been involved in all aspects of policing, including anti-terrorism and was Silver Commander in the organisation of the NATO conference held in the Celtic Manor. He was responsible for the safety of the delegates from all over the world, including Barack Obama.

Alun has travelled extensively all over the world, giving advice on counter terrorism and has dealt with our local communities and councils in all aspects of his work. The afternoon was most enjoyable and included a

wonderful meal served by very pleasant staff, and the charity gained £150 for its chosen charities.

SONY Pencoed invited the charity committee to a special afternoon at their plant and many did not realise the extent of the work carried out there, and some did not even know where the factory was. It was a memorable experience and we are most grateful to have had this opportunity to visit. SONY Pencoed sponsors the Civic Charity and shows an interest in the chosen charities and the work carried out.

Eight members of the civic charity committee attended the Kidney Wales Foundation ambassadors presentation evening at the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff, and they were given a warm welcome and presented with token of gratitude for choosing the Kidney Wales Foundation for the renal department at the Princess of Wales, Bridgend, as their main charity in 2016/2017.

In 2015/2016, Kidney Wales Foundation raised £296,000 and hopes to raise a lot more in years to come.

The next event for the Bridgend charity is on Friday, November 18 at the Heronston Hotel - with a coffee morning from 10am to 1pm, a variety of stalls, and Llangewydd School Choir entertaining. Admission (£5) to cover coffee/tea and biscuits.

For further information, contact Mari Major, MBE on 01656 651 491 or Coun Marlene Thomas on 01656 871 439.

Get ready for Christmas run-up with Bridgend Communities First!

CHRISTMAS is on its way and Bridgend Communities First can help you to get ready with plenty of free workshops and activities.

From 10am-2pm, enjoy lots of free Christmas craft and cookery workshops full of new and exciting ideas to help you in your Christmas preparations at St Brides Memorial Hall in Bryncethin on November 29 and December 6; TRA House in Lewistown November 30 and December 7 and at Richard Price Centre in Llangeinor on December 2 and 9.

Discover how to use recycled materials to make beautiful Christmas decorations at Bettws Life Centre on Thursday, November 17 from 9.30am-12.30pm and join Bridgend Communities First to wrapping ideas from cook and eat a healthy

Christmas dinner on a budget at St Cynfelyn Church Hall in Maesteg on Monday, December 12 from 10am-1pm.

From 1pm-3pm, have great fun with your family and friends making festive Christmas wreaths for you to take home and put on your front door at North Cornelly Scouts Hall on November 15, Brackla Tabernacle on December 1 and Wildmill Community Centre on December 13.

Learn how to cook healthy and delicious festive treats from 1pm-3pm at YMCA Bridgend on November 17, Pen-y-Bont Football Club on November 29 and North Cornelly Scouts Hall on December 6.

Enjoy making sock snowmen, Christmas wreaths, sweet tree gifts, paper tree decorations and try different gift wrapping ideas from 1pm-3pm at Wildmill

Community Centre on November 22, Pyle Life Centre on November 24 and Pen-y-Bont Football Club on December 5.

Why not bring your unwrapped Christmas presents and learn how to beautifully wrap them for your friends and family? From 1pm-3pm, come along to YMCA Bridgend on December 8 and Pyle Life Centre on December 15.

Bridgend Communities First have a great treat planned just before Christmas at the Evergreen Hall in Bridgend on December 19 from 10.30am-12.30pm, where all the family can enjoy a free puppet show and Christmas crafts sessions.

Christmas activities are free to all those living in Bridgend Communities First postcode areas, but advance booking is required by calling 01656 643514.

Armistice production

THE Bridgend Castle Players amateur drama group is presenting its Armistice production of: We Will Remember Them, with music and sing-along to wartime favourites; and Blackadder's 'Goodbye' by Richard Curtis and Ben Elton; and readings of actual letters received from the frontline of World War One at Bettws Community Club on Friday, November 11. Doors open 7pm, show starts 8pm. Tickets are £5.

Go to the The GEM website for the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

FACE PAINTING TREAT FOR CHILDREN AT THE PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPITAL

LAST week, two local face painters, Debbie and Lottie of 'Party Face Madness' visited the children's ward at Princess of Wales Hospital to paint faces for Hallowe'en.

Debbie Wintle, from Aberkenfig, owns Party Face Madness and started the business just over a year ago. Since the beginning of summer she has been joined by Lottie Mackenzie, an already established artist

from Droitwich, who earlier this year moved to Sarn.

Both ladies agreed that after a busy week leading up to Hallowe'en, it would be lovely to bring some cheer to the children and staff in the children's ward. Debbie contacted Wendy Brooks, a play leader, who said that they'd be thrilled to have the face painters.

They painted several children, but sadly some were too ill to take part. They also painted quite a few staff members including Neil, a

children's ward doctor who opted for a full tiger face. The children were also let loose on painting Debbie's face, with very interesting results.

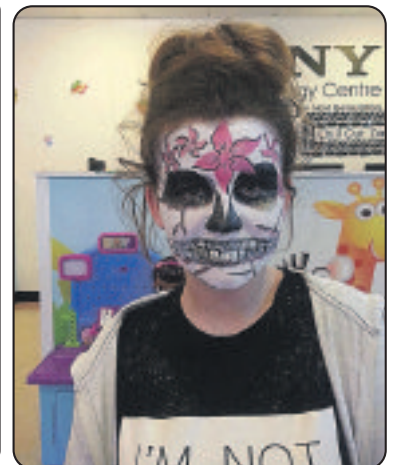
All in all, the afternoon was such a success the face painters will be returning at Christmas.

Debbie and Lottie agreed: "What a lovely afternoon, the children were fantastic and the staff were such good sports. There is nothing more rewarding than the smile face painting puts on people's faces. We can't wait to go back at Christmas."

Party Face Madness offer a range of services and have worked at many events and children's parties throughout south wales. www.partyfacemadness.co.



ABOVE: The children practice on Debbie.



A NIGHTMARE! Woman is stuck in lift for hours... ON HER BIRTHDAY!

IT'S the nightmare experience! You're planning to go out for a party to celebrate your birthday and get stuck in a lift – not just for a few moments, but hours – and it happened to a Barry woman last Friday.

Frances Ashcroft, who lives in a fourth floor flat in the 'Glan y Mor' block on the Waterfront hurried home after an afternoon shopping trip.

She was looking forward to celebrating her sixty-seventh birthday with friends,

by TIM CHAPMAN

first for a few drinks at Wetherspoons in Barry at 7pm, and then at Romeos by the Sea Restaurant in Penarth at 8.30pm.

"I got back at 5.05pm on Friday evening and got into the lift at Glan y Mor. I pressed number 4 – off it went, and then it stopped."

Nothing was happening, so Frances pushed 4 again. Nothing happened. Next she tried pressing 1, on the assumption she might have stopped on the first floor. Again nothing. Next, she tried zero – wondering whether it would take her back to

the ground floor.

Naturally, she was getting a little concerned – the lift had stopped and was showing no inclination to move either up or down.

"I pressed the alarm and an automatic, pre-recorded voice said 'Don't panic, help will be with you soon'."

"I heard a 'beep beep' and it contacted the lift company."

"The man who came on asked where the flats were, and where I was stuck. He said 'Don't worry' – I thought he was local, maybe at the worst in Cardiff."

What Frances didn't know was that 'help' would be on its way from Bristol.

While she waited she contacted her friends Marilyn and Richard, who own her flat, and told them she was stuck in the lift. They tried to chase up the lift company and Richard, an electrician, came down to the flats to see if he could help.

When she'd been in the lift for over an hour, she contacted the lift company, only to be told rather curtly "He'll be about an hour and a half" – and she was promptly cut off.

An added frustration was that West Quay Property Management, who look after the flats, close their office at 4pm on a Friday – so she couldn't contact them, and there was no other emergency number.

Richard and other people in the flats were doing their best to see if they could gain access to the lift from the first

floor, but to no avail.

"I phoned one of my friends Pauline and said 'I'm stuck in a lift'. She said 'For how long?' I replied 'An hour and a half'. She suggested 'What about the Fire Brigade?' I then shouted to Richard: 'Go for it'."

Ely Fire Brigade arrived and went up to the fifth floor of the building. They hoped to lower the lift from the first floor to the ground floor. That didn't work.

"In the end, they prised the doors apart, and I saw Richard and three firemen. I was at first floor level with a jump of two feet."

Frances was relieved that her birthday party was still on – albeit belatedly. She emerged from the lift at 7.15pm – two hours and ten minutes after getting into it.

As she rushed up to her flat to change, Richard bumped into the 'lift man' who told him he had come from the far side of Bristol.

Frances admits she has a calm temperament and was able to enjoy her birthday party – and that the experience won't put her off using lifts.

"I'll have to keep using the lift because I can't walk my shopping up to the fourth floor. The way I look at it is that there are worse things happening in the world."

Susan Ryan of West Quay Property Management explained: "We are sorry that the lift failed while Frances Ashcroft was using it. It broke down after an electrical fault and was rectified on the night by the engineer."

"The engineer was in the Bristol area when the fault occurred and was stuck in heavy traffic on the Seven Bridge and at the Bryn Glas tunnels in Newport. The lift has an auto-dialler and anyone stuck between floors has communication with the control room at Schindler lifts."

"Emergency numbers for contacting our company are posted on the noticeboards, but we or our contractors are not qualified or authorised to touch the lift equipment and only a qualified lift engineer can do that."

"We are grateful to the Fire Service for responding to the call and we will be writing to Frances Ashcroft with our apologies. We are pleased that she was safe and able to enjoy her night out after the ordeal."

Caring newcomer Jeni 'humbled' to scoop gold

AN American who says caring is her passion, feels "humbled" to have won an award so soon after taking up a new job.

Jeni Lynne Williams, a care assistant at the Bryn Celyn Care Home in Maesteg, was among the gold award winners in this year's Wales Care Awards.

The awards are organised by Care Forum Wales to recognise outstanding practice in the care sector, and the prizegiving was held in City Hall, Cardiff.

MC for the evening was opera singer and radio presenter Wynne Evans.

Jeni (27), who settled in this country just 12 months ago, won her award in the category for exceptional newcomer, sponsored by Coleg Cambria.

She hails from Indiana but husband Steven is from Maesteg, and she visited south Wales several times before they decided to settle in this country.

Having cared for her mother for several years and worked in various homes in her native USA, she immediately looked for a similar position in the Maesteg area, and after a short spell at a Bridgend home, was offered the job as care assistant at Bryn Celyn, which is part of the Hallmark Care Homes group.

"Caring is my passion and I want to train as a care practitioner. I have

to have been in this country for three years before I can go to nursing college," she said.

General manager Mary Richard, who nominated Jeni for the award, said that everyone had taken to her and she was capable of leading and inspiring others to greater excellence in their particular roles.

Jeni, whose husband is an environmental health officer with Carmarthenshire County Council, said she enjoyed all aspects of the job and had been struck by the difference in attitude between staff in care homes on different sides of the Atlantic.

"In the States caring is seen simply as a job to earn money, whereas here people really care for the residents. It's a lovely atmosphere in



Jeni Williams with her award.

which to work," she said. She and Steven were able to enjoy her success at leisure for within days of the presentation they left on a belated

honeymoon cruise in the Caribbean. They were married in March, 2015, but took only a short break at that time.

Law firm moves into Bridgend

DEVONALDS Solicitors, which has four offices across Rhondda Cynon Taff, opened a new flagship branch at Dunraven Place in Bridgend this month.

Since being founded by the late Mr D Lyn Devonald back in 1982, the firm has grown, with offices at Pontypridd, Talbot Green, Tylorstown and Tonypandy.

The law firm has now acquired the impressive and historic building at 10 Dunraven Place, which has been tastefully restored to its early 1800s former glory by previous owners, uk.

Graham Paul Accountants. Further refurbishments were completed by Devonalds before the office was opened.

Devonalds recently rebranded with a new logo and website.

Alex Kilby, partner and head of Bridgend office, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing our services to the people of Bridgend and building strong relationships with members of the local community, as we have done with our clients for over 30 years."

Devonalds is at 10 Dunraven Place, Bridgend, CF31 1JD; telephone 01656 665022; e m a i l : bridgend@devonalds.co.uk.

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New car park is open at The Rhiw in time for Christmas

BRIDGEND town centre's all-new Rhiw multi-storey car park is set to open on this Saturday, November 12 – and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is marking the occasion by providing free weekend car parking for all visitors in the run-up to the festive trading season.

The free parking will be available at the Rhiw every Saturday and Sunday until New Year's Eve.

A BCBC spokesman said it was a thank-you to local businesses and shoppers for their patience and co-operation during the construction of the new car park.

He continued: "The car park forms an important part of the £9m

Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) project which has been funded by Welsh Government, Coastal Housing Group and Bridgend County Borough Council.

"It has been built by Kier Construction and will provide the town centre with a striking, modern multi-storey parking facility that features 242 bays over seven levels, a customer lift, dedicated disabled parking, improved security and more.

"The car park uses a ticketless payment system which records a vehicle's registration number as it arrives. When the driver is ready to leave, they simply enter their registration into one of the payment machines and it calculates how much they need to pay.

"The new car park is the first phase of the VVP project to be completed at the Rhiw. It will be followed in spring 2017 by a new commercial unit and 28 modern apartments that aim to establish a community of residents who will live at the heart of the town centre and support local trade.

"The apartments will feature separate parking arrangements and will be mainly aimed at people on modest incomes who either work in or near the town centre, or who commute and need to be closer to transportation links such as the town's bus and rail stations."

Work on the apartments and commercial unit is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2017.

Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "With the VVP initiative literally putting people at the heart of the town centre, I'm really looking forward to the completion of the apartments and commercial unit next spring, and in seeing how we will be able to work alongside our partners to deliver further benefits for the town.

"I'd especially like to thank Coastal Housing and Kier Construction for ensuring that this fantastic new facility has been delivered in time for the festive trading season, and acknowledge the essential funding that has been contributed by Welsh Government."

Free Christmas and New Year parking in the county borough.

Elsewhere in the county borough, free car parking has also been arranged to help support traders during the festive shopping season. It will be available on Saturdays and Sundays after 10am at council-run pay and display car parks, December 3 to 31.

Please note that this does not include Rest Bay or car parks managed by Halo Leisure or Awen Cultural Trust.



The new car park at The Rhiw.

Couple's shock at council's £40K demand for home greenlight

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COUPLE looking to build their own home in the Vale after buying a plot of land have been hit with a shock £40,000 bill from the Vale Council.

Chris and Wendy Mumford recently bought a plot of land in Aberthin, outside Cowbridge, to build a three-bedroomed house. However, the Vale Council have demanded the £40,000 as a section 106 payment – and the couple fear it will threaten the viability of the project.

Under section 106, developers are asked for a sum that can then be spent on improving local infrastructure, for instance, or sometimes to contribute to extra education costs when a development means that a local school has an influx of new children.

Mr and Mrs Mumford contacted Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, about their situation – only to be told that she could not intervene, since it was a private matter between them and the Vale Council.

Now, the Mumford's case has been taken up by the South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, who last month wrote to the Vale Council to raise these concerns.

He also called on the Welsh Government to address the anomaly in the system.

Chris Mumford said, "We are shocked at the Welsh Government's policy to allow local authorities to impose S106 requests on self-builders in Wales, making them unviable.

"For a small three bedroomed house, we are being asked to pay over £40k as a S106 contribution, and this stealth tax will do nothing to increase the availability of affordable housing in Wales."

Andrew RT Davies said, "Section 106 contributions were always intended for large scale developments, and it is



Andrew RT Davies with Chris and Wendy Mumford on their plot of land in Aberthin.

not right that they should put a self-build project like this in jeopardy.

"Chris and Wendy Mumford have shown real initiative in building their own home – and together the Labour Vale Council and Welsh Government have made things very difficult for them."

"I have therefore written to the council asking them to take action on this, and I call on the Welsh Government to look again at the situation to prevent more absurd situations like this from arising."

Mr Davies added that

this system applies in Wales only, and in England, section 106 contributions can only be enforced on larger scale developments – and not self builds.

However, a reply from the Vale Council appeared to suggest that the fee could be up for negotiation, once planning permission had been granted.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the Vale Council's Head of Planning and Regeneration said: "In January 2016 the council approved a new Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

document which seeks to maximise the provision of much-needed affordable housing in the Vale.

"This guidance was prepared in line with the Welsh Government's priority to deliver more affordable housing through the planning system, and in response to the acute need for affordable housing in the Vale.

"This policy has been developed following an assessment of the robust evidence informing the Draft Local Development Plan which demonstrates that such a requirement is viable and deliverable in the context of the rural Vale, where land and property values are highest and reflects the approach advocated by Welsh Government in national planning policy.

"Nevertheless it must be noted that there is flexibility within the policy to allow individual viability concerns to be taken into account in the consideration of individual planning applications. However, the case in question is a current planning application and as such it would not be appropriate to comment on it specifically."

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The Invisible Walls project aims to cut re-offending by prisoners

THE Invisible Walls Wales project at Parc Prison, Bridgend is aimed at cutting re-offending by helping prisoners to strengthen family ties and provide advice on issues such as debt, housing, training and moving towards employment.

Support services are provided by family intervention workers at the prison and teams based in the community. The project was inspected by communities secretary Carl Sargeant, who commented: "I am pleased to see the

positive effect this project is having on prisoners and their families. Evidence shows substantial reduction in the numbers of offenders misusing substances when they leave prison, as well as many of them finding employment and living in improved accommodation.

"Working with the whole family unit is a highly effective way of reducing re-offending. It also delivers better outcomes for children who are most in need as they struggle to overcome the difficulties they face when a parent is sent to prison."

Local Maesteg Rotary's thanks for Bonfire Night display

THE Rotary Club of Maesteg held a very successful fireworks display at Maesteg Rugby Club on Saturday, November 5.

The day started with one of the firework technicians being taken ill and taken to hospital in an ambulance. After wondering whether to call the display off, the remaining technician decided to go on and complete the display herself.

Hundreds of people attended and were treated to a wonderful display and the Rotary club have received some very complimentary comments about bringing the display back after an absence of three years (due to vandalism at the rugby club).

Steve Madden did an excellent job of providing the music and commentary and the Rotary club would like to thank him for his continued support for the club.

The first aid was again provided by Roy Thomas and his team, and thankfully no incidents were reported on the night, and again we thank

him for his support. Maesteg Rugby Club provided the venue and gave tremendous help to the Rotary Club before and during the day and we would like to say a big 'thank you' to Paul Thomas and his colleagues, not only for the way they supported the Rotary Club but they also helped to clear up for the firework company afterwards.

We are fortunate that former Rotarians and members of Inner Wheel are always happy to help during Rotary events and again this was no exception, as quite a few arrived to support the cause and we must mention Robert Jones from Llangynwyd, son of a former Rotarian who has given his assistance over many years.

The biggest thanks must go to the generous public of Maesteg who came out in great numbers knowing that they not only enjoyed the great display but also supported local charities.

We would also like to report that despite being taken to hospital, the technician was discharged later that night and went home to Pembrokeshire.

TH

Go to the **The GEM** website for the latest stories and breaking news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk



ABOVE: This year individual poppies are displayed throughout Cowbridge High Street – and photographer Glyn Evans captured images of 39 of them and created this collage – each one represents a Cowbridge or Llanblethian man who died in conflict.

Life Centre hosts two choir concert for Remembrance



Ryan Wood with Stephanie Bailey, accompanist and deputy musical director.

NOVEMBER 11 Maesteg and this year celebrates its 10th anniversary, under the direction of its founder and musical director Ryan Wood. The choir continues to go from strength to strength and their programme will contrast well with that of Bridgend Choir. Ryan has become a talent in the field of conducting and in June of this year accepted the role of musical director with Bridgend Male Choir, and his approach has been well received within the choir. At this concert his talents will be highlighted, conducting both choirs who will offer something for everyone with their range of differing styles and tastes.

Bridgend Male Choir was established in 1960 and is often staging in excess of 70 choristers.

In 2010, the choir celebrated its 50th birthday and was awarded a citizenship award by the Mayor of Bridgend county for 50 years of fundraising, generating in excess of £1million for charity and for being ambassadors for Bridgend.

Noteworthy Mixed Choir is based in

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Lucy Owen's first book helps children's charity

by PHILIP IRWIN



Lucy Owen, pictured in Cowbridge.

BBC TV presenter and Cowbridge resident Lucy Owen has written a children's book to raise funds for the Noah's Ark Hospital in Cardiff.

The book – Lucy's first – will be launched on Friday, November 11, at the hospital, and is entitled *Boo-a-bog in the Park*.

She joined The GEM in the Twt children's playground in Cowbridge to talk about the charity.

She is already an ambassador for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital and all royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the charity.

On Friday, Lucy and husband Rhodri Owen, whose Welsh adaptation of the book, *Bw-a-bog yn y Parc*, will be launched on the same day, will be reading from the book to children currently in the hospital.

A spokesperson for Noah's Ark said: "*Boo-a-bog in the Park* is a wonderful, reassuring, rhyming story about a little boy called Tom who finds it difficult to make new friends."

Lucy told The GEM:

"The heart-warming story is beautifully complemented by Andy Catling's illustrations and has already gained praise from some well-known personalities including Wales Football team manager Chris Coleman."

Chris Coleman said: "A delightful, rhyming story with excellent imagery which I'm really looking forward to reading with my children."

Hollywood actor Matthew Rhys also enjoyed the story and the positive message conveyed.

He said: "This is a beautiful song of hope for the Tom in all of us... If only there WERE Boo-a-Bogs in adult life too. Lucy's obvious flair and talent for rhyme lets this poem of hope fly."

Boo-a-bog in the Park, published by Pont Books, an imprint of Gomer Press will be available from all good bookshops and online retailers.

In Cowbridge, the Cowbridge Bookshop and WH Smith are both stocking it.

For more information, please visit www.gomer.co.uk

BAFTA awards winner writes panto for PODS

PEOPLE in Penarth will know Andy Bradshaw (right) as the joint owner of Hamptons and Shore, an award-winning designer, and one of Penarth Council's 'Outstanding Citizens'.

What they may not know is that Penarth's much loved character trained at the Royal Welsh College in theatre design and worked in theatre and television for over 40 years; designing, writing and puppeteering, and has written a number of BAFTA award-winning series for children's television.

Andy said: "*Robinson Crusoe* is the first panto that I've written for



PODS, and was the first professional panto I appeared in at the New Theatre, with Dickie Henderson and Keith Harris & Orville.

"The production team at PODS were keen to have some puppet characters so I obliged with Archie the Dog, Herman the Hermit Crab and Marley the Parrot. There's also an underwater scene with seahorses, jellyfish and a shark."

"Of course it wouldn't be complete without pirates, a storm, a wicked baddie from the depths of the ocean and of course our hero, Robinson Crusoe."

The swashbuckling pantomime adventure *Robinson Crusoe* is at the Paget Rooms, Penarth on December 1 and 2 at 7.30pm, and on December 3 and 4 at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from Brian Gardner on 029 2071 2260 and via [Ticket source: www.ticketsource.co.uk/pods](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pods).

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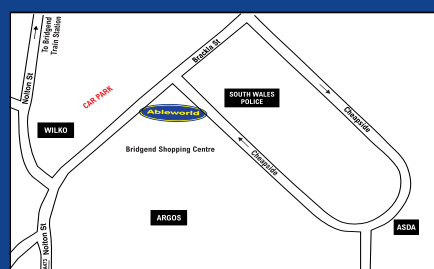
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The First Step to a Better Smile

In August, The GEM up for the ride in publicised a Ska charity event which was to take place at The Tramshed on September 16 - and the total raised was a very impressive £7,500 for The Teenage Cancer Trust at the University Hospital of Wales.
A spokesman said: "Thanks go to Karl Webb for all his hard work, Steve Fetta and Simon Baston for their help and to all the scooterists who turned up for the ride in Cardiff on the day. "We want to thank those that bought tickets and made donations. "Thanks also go to the bands Special Kinda Madness, The Riff, The Navarones and Too Toned, the DJs, compere Dean Caudwell and staff at the Tramshed. "We also want to thank the Glamorgan GEM newspaper for publicising the event."

Green group's single-track mind

A group of volunteers has vowed to help clean up Penarth's popular railway walk in a morning of action later this month.
Road as far as Cosmeston Drive. We will be tackling the banks of the path, removing branches, concrete and anything else which detracts from this beautiful area.

Led by the newly created Railway Walk Group, assisted by Penarth Tourism and Visitor Association, the Action Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, starting at 10.30am until lunchtime, and the group hopes to cover much of the path's length with the aid of many volunteers and friends.
A spokeswoman said: "We hope to encourage volunteers to join us on the day to clean up this incredibly popular walkway which stretches from the top of Plymouth

"Sustrans have donated specially chosen wildflower seeds which reflect the varieties of wildflowers that would once have thrived along old railway lines. Members of the community will also be sowing these seeds on the green in Sully Terrace. Volunteers are welcome to join this group too.

"The event will be sociable and fun - an opportunity for the community and path users to get to know one another and make new friends.
"The Vale Council has been incredibly supportive of this event, and we have pledged to work with them to help keep the path in as good an order as reasonably practical."

Volunteers, who will be provided with appropriate equipment on the day, should meet at 10.30 am on Saturday, November 19 at the Sully Terrace/Archer Road junction of the walkway. If you have your own heavy duty gloves please bring them along!

For further information, volunteers and interested parties can join the group on Facebook - Railway Path Project Penarth.

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Plaid advice surgery

RESIDENTS are invited to attend the Plaid Cymru advice surgery this Saturday, November 12, between 11am and 12 noon at the Community Room, County Library, King Square, Barry with any local issues they may have.

Plaid Cymru councillors Dr Ian Johnson, Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges and Steffan Wiliam will be in attendance.

Open art

VALE artist Glyn Pooley will hold an open studio exhibition at Canonhill Artspace, Canon Street, Barry on Saturday, November 12 from 10am - 4pm; and November 13 from 10am - 4pm.

Wick fair

WICK and District Pensioners' Club Christmas fair will be held on Saturday, November 12 in Wick Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm.

Many stalls including books, cakes, tombola, Christmas items, produce and a grand raffle with numerous prizes.

All welcome, admission £1. Further information from 01656 890386.

Remembrance advice

at Lavernock

THE former Church of St Lawrence at Fort Road, Lavernock will be the setting for an Hour of Remembrance on Sunday, November 13 at 3pm.

Hymns, scripture and poetry readings, and a prayerful act of remembrance should help to evoke the spirit of this season of memories. There will be a warm welcome for everyone.

A free car park can be found on the left of Fort Road just before the church. For further details call Rev Margaret Stark on 02920 701303.

Meeting in St Bride's Major

THE Community Council of St Bride's Major will meet in All Saints' Church, Southerndown on Monday, November 14 at 7pm.

Royal British Legion AGM

The Royal British Legion Barry Branch Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.30pm on Monday, November 14, at the Barry Town Council Chambers, Gladstone Road, Barry. This will be followed by a short branch meeting. All branch members should attend, and interested non members are always welcome.

Fuel poverty advice

NATIONAL Energy

Action (NEA) is a charity that campaigns to end fuel poverty.

NEA Cymru aims to advise households at risk of cold-related illness, especially older people. An adviser from NEA Cymru will be available on Tuesday, November 15 from 10am - 12 noon at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. NO appointment needed, just come along for a chat. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Tai Chi

BARRY NPT, in conjunction with John Porter, older people's strategy coordinator at the Vale Council, will hold free Tai Chi sessions on: November 16, 1pm - 2pm and November 23, 1pm - 2pm at Central Park, King Square, Barry.

For more information call 07970 736885.

Association of National Trust Volunteers

THE November meeting of the NT (Vale) Volunteers Association will be held at 7.30pm next Wednesday, November 16 at The Duke of Wellington, when Mr Chris Barker will talk about 'The Royal Mint'.

New members are always welcome. Come and join us.

F l o r a l Christmas

PORHCRAWL Floral Arrangement Society is holding an open evening on Wednesday, November 16 at 7.30pm (open doors from 6.30pm) at the Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl.

There will be a flower demonstration by Delyth Price entitled 'A Magical Christmas'. Everyone is welcome (£10 on the door), tea/coffee and a mince pie provided.

Balloon talk

THE Flatholm Society is hosting a public talk by Dr Bob of Dr Bob's Balloons on Thursday, November 17 at the Kymyn Beach Road, Penarth on the history of balloon artistry with a demonstration of the craft.

Dr Bob has created balloon sculptures for corporate and social worldwide. Everyone welcome we ask for a donation of £2/3 to cover costs. There will be refreshments, tea/coffee and a raffle.

For information, contact Peter Sampson by email pb.samoson@ntlworld.com or call 01446 404842.

Cowbridge Art Society

Today (November 10), Cowbridge Art Society welcomes former V&A curator Roger Pinkham who will give an illustrated lecture on British Surrealists.

The following week, at 7 pm on Thursday, November 17 the society's Christmas Exhibition opens at Old Hall and trophies will be presented.

MS charity concert

COR Meibion Maesteg ar Cylch (Maesteg Male Voice Choir) will perform at Trelales School, Laleston on Friday, November 18 from 7pm in aid of Multiple Sclerosis charity.

It is hoped many people will come along to hear this excellent choir, established in 1974; they have raised many thousands of pounds for charity over the years.

On the night they will be led by musical director Rhian Jenkins and Ryan Wood, accompanist. The evening's soloist is Sarah Morris.

MS is a neurological condition and no cure has yet been found; this is an opportunity to raise funds to help in research, to find a cure for this crippling condition.

Price of admittance £7.50, which includes a glass of wine, and tickets are available from Terry Moseley on 01656 650598.

Amelia Trust

festive fair

THE Amelia Trust Farm is holding its annual Christmas fair on November 19 at Cottrell Park Golf Resort from 11am - 4pm.

Festive fun for all the family, with a variety of craft stalls, activities for children and performances from two local choirs.

Father Christmas will visit the fair and some of our furry friends from the Amelia Trust Farm will be there, too!

There will also be homemade mince pies, cakes and refreshments available. No admission charge, but a donation in the bucket at the entrance is welcome!

More details at www.ameliatrust.org.uk.

Songs of Broadway

BROADWAY Bounces Back will be presented by Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society on November 26 at 7.30pm in Porthcawl Pavilion.

The 40-strong Broadway Chorus will be joined by Tredegar Town Band, winner of Band Cymru 2016 on S4C, and the Sarah Burrell School of Dance from Pencoed.

Tickets £12 (under-16s £9) on hotline: 01656 788148, or box office 01656 815995.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

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Commemoration Service

Sunday 13th November 2016

10.20am Parade assembly near Cowbridge Town Hall
March to War Memorial
11.00am 2 Minute Silence & Wreath Laying
Parade Marches to Holy Cross Church
Special Day's Commemoration Service
Return to Town Hall for "The Salute & The Dismiss"
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E-Mail: david.melding@assembly.wales
Tel: 0300 200 7222

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig

'If I fail to return, I wish you all a last fond goodbye'. Keeping in touch with family in a time of war

In the week when we pay tribute to the thousands of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure our freedoms, Dr Jonathan Hicks explains how, in the First World War, people were able to keep in touch with loved ones serving abroad, and how local soldiers abroad corresponded with their families back home. Some were never to return...

During the Great War, there was a huge expansion in the role of the Post Office. The Army Postal Service was responsible for Army mail in all theatres of war across the world. All mail destined for the men at the front was sorted at the London home depot, which covered five acres of

Regents Park. It was said to be the largest wooden structure in the world and by 1918 employed over 2,500 staff, mostly female.

By the time the war ended in November 1918, the home depot had handled over two billion letters and 114 million parcels. In 1917 over 19,000 mailbags crossed the English Channel each day, and in the weeks leading up to Christmas 1917 over 500,000 bags were transported.

Corporal JE Price of the 18th Hussars, formerly a policeman at Barry Dock, wrote a letter dated September 25, 1914: 'We are still very busy attacking a strongly fortified German position. We have been here a week now but I expect they will be flying shortly and if they do get routed we shall finish for a while.'

'Yesterday a shell burst in our trench quite near my section and my left hand man was struck



Bert Clements.

by a piece of shrapnel which shattered his arm, but I carried him away to the hospital from where he was sent to England.

'He was very brave through all the pain he must have endured. I know God will spare me, for He has brought me out of some very tight corners during the past week, especially yesterday when the enemy were firing at us with their large siege guns.'

'Sunday is a noted day for fighting. Every Sunday since we have been here we have been hotly engaged with the enemy. I am writing this letter in the house which had been previously occupied by the Germans, who took everything in it, leaving the people without a bite of food or clothes, but this has happened in every village entered by

the enemy. The distress of some of the people is terrible and the British help them as far as possible with food etc, from their own supplies.'

Other men were not so fortunate. Mrs. Elizabeth Clements, a widow of 30, Brook Street was preparing a parcel of cakes, sweets and cigarettes to despatch to her soldier-son when the news reached her that he had been killed in action on November 7.

Corporal Bert Richard Clements, aged 23, of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, was her only son.

He was a member of the Cardiff Police Force and had been called up for service as a Reservist at the commencement of the War.

He had also been in the Metropolitan Police. He had arranged his marriage at Christmas to a young lady from Torquay.

Lance Corporal A Hunt later wrote to Mrs Clements to tell her how her son had died: 'It was on November 7th, about 3.30pm, that he was killed.'

'We were being attacked, and I had been out of the trench. On coming back I saw some dead Germans and Clem, your son, and I watched them for some time.'

'Clem and I always tried to keep together, and whilst we were re-

entering the trench he stood upright against a tree. As I was passing - there wasn't much room - I bent my head down quickly, and at once it became covered with dust.'

'I looked at Clem, and could see he had been hit, but did not know how badly until I laid him on the ground. Then I could see that a piece of shell from a shrapnel had struck him. When I unbuttoned his jacket and saw a hole as large as my fist under his heart, I said to our section, "Clem is done." He was killed outright.'

'We all deeply regret his death for he was such a good comrade and soldier. I know in time you will be happy to know you had a son such as Clem, to die for his country.'

Sergeant John Tipples of the 3rd Bn Monmouthshire Regiment, the son of William and Anne Tipples of 21, Brook Street, Barry Dock, and the husband of Beatrice Maud Tipples, wrote home in March 1915 describing his experiences in the trenches.

'The first time I was in the trench I had a trying experience. The Germans turned their big guns on our trenches and we underwent a very heavy bombardment, one shell bursting four yards from my dugout, but beyond splashing us with mud no one was

hurt. I shall not want to see any fireworks in the future; it will be very tame after this, for at night it is a sight of a lifetime to see the shells going up. They illuminate the country for miles around and then is the time to 'duck your nuts', for a perfect fusillade of bullets come along.'

'We manage to get a little fun occasionally. On the 10th instant we put up an old bucket and some bully tins on the parapet of the trench and then signalled by means of an old shovel to the Germans how their shots were coming. If they missed we waved an old shirt on a pole. It all helps to make them waste their ammunition, in addition to the fun we get out of it.'

John Tipples was killed two months later on May 11, aged 30. His wife remarried and emigrated to America.

Corporal T O'Flynn of 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rifles was killed on May 9, 1915, aged 25. A month earlier he had written to his mother at 5, Hunter Street, telling her of his involvement in fighting on March 10 and 11, after which he had erroneously been reported as killed. He was the husband of Martha Ann O'Flynn of 17, Holmes Street, Cadocton.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 17**

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'The rats are very annoying'

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 16

In his letter he wrote: 'One day we had to take a trench. I looked upon this piece of work as a death trap. We had to cross a thin plank over a river, and then get into a deep wide ditch. My section was the first to try it. They went one by one but were shot down in the attempt.'

'Then my company officer ordered five or six at a time to dash across. I was one of them and got into the ditch up to my waist in water. Your fag case was nearly the cost of my life. After getting up on to the bank I dropped the case and I fell down and crept to where I had

dropped it but a sniper must have seen me move for all of a sudden my hat went off and I found afterwards that a bullet had gone through it.

'Well, I got to the trench and found only dead Huns and eleven of my regiment. We had their last line of trench and I found four Germans there. I claimed them and marched them out again and on coming to the crossroads I caught four more looking for their regiment, so I took them to headquarters.'

'I did not turn up till next day and I was reported killed, but when Tom turned up with a slip from headquarters to

give to my adjutant it was a surprise.'

He was killed during a bombing attack on enemy trenches north of Hill 60.

The 54th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery was based at Salonika in 1916. Bombardier Turner, Driver Roach and Driver Lee wrote home in January that year to say: 'We have been on the Gallipoli (Achi Baba) Front; it was hot work there; now we are having a 'change of diet' with the Bulgarians, having been withdrawn from the Peninsula.'

'We have the honour of being the only three Barry boys to be in the first batch of English

Artillery troops to land at Salonika. We have had some stiff fights with the Bulgarians. It is all mountain work here, and we are giving the Bulgars 'beans'. They are all right until our Infantry lads show the 'toasting fork' and then they run.

'The Turk is a far better soldier than the Bulgar. We are in possession of a village which not many days ago was in the hands of the Bulgars, who, by the look of the prisoners, seem about 'fed up' and one of them, as he passed caught sight of our guns, and he gazed in awe at it.'

Private Reg Pateman of the 10th Battalion Welsh Regiment wrote to a friend in January 1916 that he had joined up nine months previously at the age of 16. He had spent six months training at Rhyl before being sent to Winchester.

At the age of 17 he was now in the trenches: 'I was in the trenches last week and find it is not so bad as long as you keep your head down and if the 'Aliman' (as the French call the Germans) do not send over too many 'whizz bangs'. If they do, you have got to get well under cover or you will soon 'go down for coke.'

'The water in the trenches is very deep, in some places up to our waists. The rats are also very annoying, and they run away with our food if we leave it about for more than five minutes.'

In March 1916 Guardsman Frank Hall

was wounded and from his hospital bed in France he wrote: 'After nine months in the thick of it, you can guess what it was like for me. It was absolutely grand. No sound of guns, no rifle fire, no dodging shells - it seemed like heaven. Not only that but actually a bed with white sheets!'

'Perhaps you will not believe it, I had almost a shock over the change, not having seen a proper bed for so long. My temperature was very high when admitted and when I first got to myself someone said, "How do you feel Hall?" and the possessor of that sweet voice, an English lady. Why, I had not seen one since leaving England nine months ago.'

'I often hear it asked, "when will it be over?" It is a puzzle I know, but since I have been down at the base I fancy it won't be much longer; but when I am in it, I think it is the beginning of the end of the world. My nine months out here has made me feel as if the happy time at Barry Dock was a dream. What volumes have been crowded into that comparatively short space of time.'

Trooper Bert Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs WM Douglas of Gaspard Place, Barry, was in Egypt with the Glamorgan Yeomanry and wrote home in July 1916: 'I have just had a journey I shall never forget. My destination was a blockhouse many miles away and I started on a camel, my bandolier loaded with

120 rounds of ammunition and 220 rounds in my valise, rifle loaded and a bottle of water.'

'After four hours' riding our flanking patrols, who were a long way out in the dark, came in to report the appearance of horsemen. You see, our enemy here is a fellow called the Senussi - a most barbarous customer! 'After waiting awhile...orders came to again move on, and so in single file we passed on until we arrived at the first blockhouse. I had a job to get my camel to go down for me to dismount, but after using the Arabic word to dismount, he eventually got down. After a very short time for stretching legs we were off again. The camel is an awful mount!'

'Added to that, I had only a wooden pack saddle, and the memory of that ride will always be with me. Eventually, I fell in with poor Walt Humphreys who was tamping, so I gave up my camel to him. He was also too glad to have a ride, being dead beat. After riding and walking for 13 1/2 hours, I was thirsty, footsore and weary.'

'The heat is fearful, and the winds that sweep over the desert in the day time burn the face like a blast from a furnace. It takes all the life out of one, and many faint through it, but so far I have stood it fairly well.'

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 18



Bert Douglas, on right.

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Men who faced the horror of war

'I may be found yet in the company of dear ones gone before' – a soldier's final letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

'How the boys here talk of 'dear old home,' and pine for Barry with all its rain! We used to grumble at the rain at home, but here in this dried, mighty and monotonous desert I just pine for a drop.'

'I feel proud, however, that, as a little Britisher, I am assisting to keep the old flag flying in one of the outposts of our great Empire!'

Gomer Leyshon, a wireless operator on a transport ship, wrote home to his mother at 11, Evans Street, Barry Dock describing the sinking of the troopship *Invernia* in the Mediterranean on New Year's Day 1917: 'On that day we had a bit of excitement. About 10 am I heard distress signals from a "trooper", the *Invernia*,

which had previously passed us. Ten minutes after she was struck, we were taking survivors aboard. Everything went all right for about an hour, but when we went alongside the "trooper" to take the crew and officers and those military men (mostly officers) who were unable to get into boats, things looked queer.

'A heavy sea was running, and our ship was knocked about a great deal. When we left the *Invernia* we had about 500 aboard. The last man to leave the doomed ship was the captain, who happened to be Captain Turner of the *Lusitania*. At noon on the 2nd January we landed the survivors at the small but important British Naval base.'

Gomer Leyshon died on April 13, 1919,



David Harris.

aged 22, while serving on the *HMS Trawler Thomas Robins*. He was the son of William and Mary Leyshon of Newlands Street, Barry.

Hundreds of thousands of letters home conveyed terrible news. In October 1916 the sad intelligence was conveyed to Mr William Harris of Pyke

Street, Barry Dock that his youngest son, Private DJ Harris of the Durham Light Infantry, had been killed in action in France. Private Harris had been for many years an assistant master under the Barry Education Committee and had served at several schools in the town. He was 36 years old and a bachelor.

A faithful member of Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church, Barry Dock, he was also a Sunday school teacher. His brother Gwilym was also serving in France.

In the letter conveying the sad news, Private Alfred Georges of the Black Watch stated: 'It is my painful duty to send you a letter herewith which was found on your son's person on the battlefield. It may be some solace to you to know that your son was buried by the boys of the section and, great as I know the loss of your son must be to you, yet he gave his life nobly for a noble cause, and in your mingled feeling of pride and sorrow you will bear your loss bravely to the end.'

In the letter to his father found on his body, Private Harris had written: 'This may be my last message. We have been in support for several days. Tonight we are moving up towards the front line, and as we move forward the more dangerous it is to life or limb.'

'If I fail to return, I wish you all a last fond goodbye. My thoughts have been often with you during the last few days. If I am taken from you, don't break your hearts. I am no saint, but I believe

there is forgiveness for the chief of sinners, and, who knows, I may be found yet in the company of dear ones gone before.'

Private Harris has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Dr Jonathan Hicks is the author of *Barry and the Great War* and *Barry and the Second World War*.



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PUPILS at Llanccarfarn Primary School turned Cancer Research UK's non uniform day on October 21 into a day to remember, by dressing up as their all-time favourite Roald Dahl characters!

Both children and staff joined in the fun and the BFG, Willie Wonka, Matilda and Fantastic Mr Fox were just some of the characters who turned up to school!

The children have had a fantastic autumn term, celebrating Roald Dahl and his centenary year, and enjoying lots of exciting Dahl-based activities. Our After School Club joined in the celebrations too and held a 'Lotions and Potions' night, making gruesome concoctions, just like George and his Marvellous Medicine!

Each of the children donated £1 on the day and this has been donated to Cancer Research UK.

CH

Ty Hafan's 'Carols at the Castle'

'CAROLS at the Castle' – Cardiff Castle – is back and tickets are on sale.

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A Ty Hafan spokeswoman said: "This really is a carol concert with a difference. Share an evening of traditional carols and contemporary

choirs at one of the most iconic landmarks in Wales."

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children. Under-fives go free. Tickets can be purchased online and in selected Ty Hafan stores"

If you are interested in volunteering at Carols at the Castle and want to gain experience in events, please email events@tyhafan.org.

Join the Facebook event and follow us on Twitter: @tyhafan #carolsatthecastle.

Seeing stars in Barry!

THE recently formed Barry and District Astronomical Society welcomes all who are interested in astronomy, from the rank novice onwards.

Meetings are twice-monthly, whatever the weather. Twice monthly observing sessions, weather permitting, are held at Barry Island Community Centre on alternate Monday

evenings. We start with a talk on various aspects of astronomy or astrophotography and related subjects, followed by a tea break.

We end with questions, demonstrations of astronomical gear and advice on getting the best from instruments you own, or intend to purchase.

For information, contact Dave Powell on 0292 0551704 or 07907 847163, or me on 07855 352147.

MD

Politicos pedal for RBL's Poppy Appeal

IT'S a long way to Tipperary, but it is also a long way to Mametz Wood – scene of typically bloody fighting during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 – especially if one 'cycles' there.

Local AMs, including Andrew RT Davies, Huw Irranca-Davies and Jane Hutt took part in a static bike ride at the Senedd, organised by and to show support for the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Said Mr Davies: "The RBL held the event in the Senedd for the first time this year, which involves AMs riding on static bikes as they attempt to collectively cover the distance from the

Assembly to Mametz Wood," he explained.

He urged local residents to show their support for those who have risked and sacrificed their lives to defend our country's freedoms on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mr Davies said: "The RBL does fantastic work supporting veterans and it was great to take part in their attempt to collectively ride the distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood.

Ms Hutt and Mr Irranca-Davies gave similar praise to the RBL, commenting that they were "pleased to have been able to support such a worthy cause".

ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies with Dave Ireland of Change Step Wales and Simone Leonce of Vitality Gyms.

RIGHT: Huw Irranca-Davies pedals to remember fallen British and Commonwealth servicemen.



A sample image produced by Marc Delaney of the Pleiades Star Cluster.

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Tom Ford's Nocturnal Animals are just too cold to connect...

MANY people fancy trying their hand at directing; movie stars, musicians, all have tried their hand, though fashion designers-turned-directors are few and far between – apart from Tom Ford.

Having drawn critical praise for his debut *A Single Man* back in 2009, it has taken Ford seven years to produce his sophomore effort, *Nocturnal Animals*.

Based on the novel *Tony and Susan* by Austin Wright, it tells the story of Susan (Amy Adams), an art gallery owner who receives a manuscript from her ex-husband Tony (Jake Gyllenhaal), a violent thriller that she perceives to be about their relationship; Susan attempts to reconcile the life she has and the life she gave away as she reads through his work...

There's a moment late on in *Nocturnal Animals* where, as Amy Adams' Susan is gripped by the prose of her ex-husband (which is being played out on screen in a narrative

that runs alongside the main one, the protagonist played also by Jake Gyllenhaal) a bird flies smack bang into her window, startling both of them and the audience. A foretelling of dark times ahead, its one of many moments that are heavy on stylish symbolism, something that *Nocturnal Animals* isn't short of.

But quite whether or not there's enough substance to underpin the style is the argument here, and while it's a film that keeps you engaged, it's also a film that never really lets you too deeply underneath lest the weight of the material overcomes the artifice of it all.

You can tell Tom Ford's background lies in design; every shot is coolly calibrated, an exercise in investing mood and ambience into every shot. Suffice to say it's a film that looks incredibly gorgeous – whether it's the cold and clinical life of Susan, as we see the glittering life she lives makes up for no end of longing when the doors are closed; or the rugged and parched Texas landscape where the other plot of the film, the story Susan's



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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ex-husband Tony has sent her, takes place, a story of Western revenge where the film's emotional core truly lays.

In a way, that's a small part of the problem. The most engaging and emotional story is the one we are being told through Susan, the story-within-a-story; the main story itself, concerning Susan's disenfranchisement with her life, the realisation of mistakes and how the grass isn't greener. However, it doesn't match the power of the story Susan is reading.

There's the odd gut punch as we learn how and why Susan and Tony split up, but little more. Instead, the real punch comes from the tale of a family caught up in a nightmarish road trip with dark and deadly consequences.

The performances are solid; if Adams doesn't quite nail the role of Susan (as good as the actress is, she doesn't really capture the angst of a woman whose world is turning upside down and is looking back as a source of comfort), then Jake Gyllenhaal more than makes up for.

Gyllenhaal is developing into one of the most versatile and watchable leading men, and here he is very good, both as Tony, all artistic frustration and futility, and as the main

character in his own novel, a man tortured by the mistakes he's made and yearning for a chance to put them right.

It says much of Ford's drawing power that the likes of Michael Sheen, Andrea Riseborough, Laura Linney and Armie Hammer all deliver small but pivotal turns, lighting up the moments they appear.

Michael Shannon as a detective in the story-within-the-story is equally as strong as Gyllenhaal. The film picks up a gear when they share the screen together, while Aaron Taylor-Johnson is reprehensible and devilish as the villain of that story.

But despite that, it's a film that feels all too vague and almost soap opera-lite at times. This isn't a film where resolutions come easy (or, in a way, come at all) and when they do, they're not the most satisfying.

It looks superb, there's plenty to savour within, but these *Nocturnal Animals* are a little too cold for their own good.

VERDICT: An intriguing and interesting film that may perhaps be a little too emotionally detached for its own good, *Nocturnal Animals* is beautiful to look at thanks to Tom Ford's stylish direction, and carries weight through the turns of Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Shannon.

But sometimes there's a little too much arch artifice to handle, and this takes what should be a thoroughly compelling film and makes it feel a little less than the sum of its parts. *Average.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *A Single Man* (2009), *Hell Or High Water* (2016).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D955.

● **£2,000:** 333123.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.**
● **£10:** 4 7 3 9 7 6, 662890, 618800, 541577, 815393, 971499, 552721, 777831, 797508, 731633, 793075, 753525, 810346, 828749, 159967, 228606, 150325, 451541, 803438, 1985201.

● **£5:** 887436, 931867, 192064, 792374, 166221, 963501, 665687, 320565, 698445, 938709, 253169, 699959, 853424, 875932, 815737, 132764, 230282, 566065, 130704, 635883, 333029, 724526, 779938, 395832, 625234, 998146, 459048, 476822, 843742, 217377, 630113, 220383, 175179, 517843, 608609, 696343, 572764, 411182, 505797, 704707, 857423, 608002, 225931, 799351, 859960, 171394, 459767, 756079, 702204, 544474, 279179, 778568, 341332, 558926, 000235, 000541, 000080, 001843, 1956841, 1877537.

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number

D956.
● **£2,000:** 409731.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.**
● **£10:** 157621, 189878, 988276, 382134, 674274, 621293, 748029, 540968, 225183, 303402, 761887, 468042, 443945, 182665, 851639, 904801, 252877, 315074, 1579308, 1984815.

● **£5:** 825648, 244257, 692654, 121541, 402476, 513712, 532075, 560155, 267632, 651063, 792037, 406823, 815070, 750968, 941693, 679935, 315837, 937685, 547947, 282716, 370861, 937092, 726715, 737685, 186042, 132346, 438206, 432831, 981638, 556281, 342008, 514357, 530349, 245262, 113046, 658533, 655057, 131745, 809914, 697043, 427827, 138751, 876462, 931867, 817007, 662890, 834029, 480137, 153371, 656020, 160779, 425010, 864839, 606985, 649540, 228702, 001277, 000666, 1403804, 1985416.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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IN recent weeks The GEM has embarked on a gastronomic odyssey, highlighting the wide variety of dining experiences in the Vale.

Mr Villa's Fish and

by TIM CHAPMAN

Chip Restaurant and Oyster Bar is celebrating its first anniversary at the Knap in Barry so it was an appropriate time to see what it has to offer.

The owners, Beppe and Christine Villa, have

35 years of experience in the restaurant trade with sea food dining their speciality. The restaurant provides a wide range of fish dishes, but non-fish too.

It has the bright,

cheerful décor of a seaside fish restaurant in blues and whites, colourful vintage travel posters and bleached white wood panels.

I've always enjoyed sea food courses because they tend to be filling without being too heavy. My wife likes fish as a healthy option too.

There's a wide choice of starters and main courses on the menu for meat as well as fish lovers, along with a 'specials board'.

My wife chose the 'king prawns in garlic butter' (£5.50) while I selected the 'calamari' with salad and tartare sauce (£6.25).

My wife enjoyed the king prawns very much. They were the largest she'd ever seen and were juicy and mouth-watering. The butter sauce was delicious.

The calamari was cooked perfectly with a light batter, not in the least rubbery which can happen if over-cooked. It was just right. The calamari was well

complemented by the home-made tartare sauce and salad.

For our main courses, my wife selected 'halibut with lemon and caper beurre blanc jus' (£18.50); I went for 'roasted hake with a white butter sauce' (£13.50).

The halibut was a lean, sweet and flaky fish and the white wine sauce with butter, herbs and capers, proved an ideal combination. It came with a side dish of new potatoes - my wife ever calorie conscious.

I had the hake which

had a subtle, mild taste similar to cod. The home-made chips were excellent.

If we had wanted to, we could have gone for meat dishes such as 'Welsh rack of lamb' or 'pan fried chicken' or 'sirloin steak'. For those interested, the restaurant also does traditional Sunday roast.

It was nice to be able to see the food being prepared at the open kitchen counter by the chef, Simeon, and the second chef Linda.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Caramelized Oranges and Cream
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Dinner Menu for Christmas Parties
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Provencal Tomato and Onion Tart
Calamari with Homemade Tartare Sauce
Roasted Duck with Apricot & Almond Stuffing/Roast Veg
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Christmas Party Guide

DINING WITH MR VILLA AT THE KNAP IN BARRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22
The manager, Rebecca, and waitresses, Emily and Crystal, were friendly and attentive with a quick service. One of my bug bears is restaurants which keep you waiting an excessive time until you are served.

For desserts we went for 'caramelised oranges' and 'chocolate and orange mousse' (both £4.95) – a nice light finish to the meal.

Beppe and Christine demonstrate a real personal touch with diners and are keen to offer any advice on the dishes, and to check that everyone in the restaurant is happy with their meal and the service.

Christine surprised us at the end by presenting us with an extra treat of 'home made raspberry and almond bakewell' and 'steamed pudding with a syrup sauce', which were surprisingly light, and not at all stodgy.

Mr Villa's is



Mr Villa's Fish and Chip Restaurant and Oyster Bar is located at the Knap in Barry.

offering a three course Christmas lunch menu at £18.50 per person; and a three course Christmas dinner menu at £24.50 per person. Both will include a glass of prosecco on arrival. Now is the time to book that special meal out for the festive season!

Beppe and Christine are proud that all their fish and meat produce comes from Welsh suppliers.

As lovers of fish dishes a return journey is something we look forward to.



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Police target drivers using mobile phones

THE four police forces in Wales, led by Gwent Police and in partnership with Road Safety Wales, are launching a major crackdown on motorists who use mobile phones while driving.

The All Wales enforcement campaign runs from Monday, November 7 until Sunday, November 20 and is urging all road users to 'keep their eyes on the road' and not be distracted by their mobile phones.

Officers will be speaking to drivers about the dangers of using mobile phones when driving and also about the dangers of being distracted behind the wheel.

Officers will be stopping motorists seen using their mobile phones while driving and any offenders can expect a £100 fine and three points on their licence.

Nationally, the number of motorists using mobile phones to make calls, texts or social media updates whilst driving has risen and distracted driving is expected to be

the biggest single cause of death and injuries on roads as a result in 2016.

In Wales, more than 500 motorists were caught using their mobile phones whilst behind the wheel during the 2015 campaign.

Chief Inspector Martyn Stone from South Wales Police roads policing unit, said: "Even experienced and competent drivers can be easily distracted and a slight lapse in concentration can have serious consequences. Smart phone are a key part of modern life and we are also seeing drivers being distracted while checking social media, reading their emails or accessing the internet."

"Drivers need to be aware that these actions carry the same danger and the same penalty."

"Our main message is clear; keep your eyes on the road. A lapse in concentration when driving can be devastating and this is why officers from all four Welsh forces will be carrying out proactive patrols to target motorists who endanger road users in this way."

Chair of Road Safety Wales Susan Storch said:

"Driving a vehicle requires us to multi-task so anything above and beyond that needs to wait until we are safely parked up or until our journey has finished."

"Campaigns such as this demonstrate the resolve of all the Road Safety Wales partners in tackling this issue and we will continue to work together to drive home the message of not using your mobile phone behind the wheel. No call or text is that important."

Police advice
DON'T make or answer calls when you're driving. All phone calls distract drivers' attention from the road.

You can pick up any missed calls or texts when it is safe and convenient to do so. If you need to use the phone when driving, then stop at the first safe opportunity.

It's illegal to use a hand-held mobile when driving on the road even if you've stopped at traffic lights or are stuck in a traffic jam or are in a car park. All these situations are covered by the legal definition of 'driving on the road'.

Be aware that if you get just six points in the

first two years after passing your test, you will lose your licence.

Drivers of buses or goods vehicles could get a maximum fine of £2,500.

Park safely before using your mobile phone. Do not park on the hard shoulder of the motorway.

Don't call other people when they're driving. If you call someone and they tell you they are driving, ask them to call you back when they have parked up safely.

Plaque for PS Waverley skip



THE picture was taken when members of Barry branch, Merchant Navy Association and Mr T Sylvester of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society presented the captain of PS Waverley with a branch plaque and documents of the PS Barry, which was once named PS Waverley.

YOUNGSTERS GIVEN FIRST AID TRAINING



Mia Shanahan, Hallie Shather, Ross Harris and Caitlin Cook give a helping hand to new 'friends' – the Resusci twins!

FORTY youngsters from the Rhose area have been given first aid training – thanks to Aberthaw Cement Plant.

The children, aged nine to 18, are members of Vale Parent Child Homework Support Club, and underwent the life skills session after Tarmac donated money to fund the course.

Held at Rhose Community Centre, the full day course gave the youngsters the opportunity to undertake practical exercises, while also learning the theory behind first aid and how to treat the most common injuries and accidents.

Ross Harris (11), from Rhose Point, one of the course participants, said: "We all have accidents and get hurt every so often and so when I learnt of the opportunity to train in first aid I jumped at the chance."

"The course was fantastic and gave us all a good grounding and understanding of first aid."

"I certainly now feel much more comfortable and confident in making the right decisions when faced with a situation where someone is hurt."

The club is run by volunteers and holds English and maths support sessions for Vale schoolchildren, and is now helping older family members to further their skills with adult learning support.

It meets on Tuesday and Thursday during school term time at the Rhose Community Centre.

Club founder member, Cath Watkins, said: "Thanks to Tarmac's generous donation to fund this training course, we have been able to reach out to young members of the Rhose community to provide them with a solid understanding of first aid. We hope that they won't need to put their learning into practice but should they need to do so they can do it with confidence."

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Pride In Barry's first litter pick



A BRIGHT sunny morning on Sunday, November 6 provided perfect conditions for Pride In Barry's first litter pick, held in the grounds of the Memorial Hall on Gladstone Road.

Pride In Barry members were keen to ensure the grounds are looking their best for the Armistice and Remembrance services this week, and chair Rhian Lees was joined by three trustees of the Memo Arts Centre, Paul Haley, Anna Denton-Jones and Richard Thomas; Labour AM Jane Hutt, Plaid Cymru Councillors Nic Hodges, Shirley Hodges and Ian Johnson and local residents Steve Thorne, Tim and Sid Morgan.

Around 10 bin bags of rubbish were collected and a makeshift den found on the embankment was also dismantled. Pride In Barry is now looking for its next litter picking site and would welcome ideas from Barry residents.

If there is an area in your community that requires some TLC, get in touch via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/prideinbarry or email chairman@prideinbarry.co.uk.

Flying to the sun from Cardiff Airport

WALES' national airport at Rhosneah announced further growth during October: the rolling total number of passengers flying from Cardiff Airport (from November 2015 – October 2016) now stands at 1,331,515

Housing projects and the homeless

NEWYDD Housing Association is leading one of five UK housing projects helping homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, to rent a home through a new £150k fund.

The Help-To-Rent funding programme has been commissioned by Crisis, the national charity for homeless people, and will help the five projects.

The funding will allow Newydd to work alongside the Vale Council, and partners Wales and West Housing, Hafod Housing Association and United Welsh, to promote a shared housing model in the social rented sector, called Rooms4U.

(+19 per cent), it was reported this week.

This follows a record-breaking month for its executive lounge, which has seen its busiest month of bookings since opening in 2003. Over 4,200 passengers, including business travellers flying on routes to London City, Dublin, Edinburgh, and Glasgow with Flybe, and Amsterdam Schiphol with KLM, are enjoying this luxury product which includes a selection of Welsh food and drink and free WiFi.

In October, it was also announced that low cost Spanish airline Iberia Express will begin operating out of Cardiff Airport from Easter 2017, with twice weekly direct flights to Madrid – bringing a new airline and a new route to Wales' national airport for next summer.

In October, Flybe announced a brand new route to Rome departing on Tuesdays and Saturdays from March next year. Fares to the Italian capital start from £24.99 each way at Flybe.com.

Spencer Birns, commercial director at Cardiff Airport, said: "We've experienced another month of strong performance from our airlines in October, with customers enjoying a late summer holiday, autumn city breaks and making use of Flybe's service to London City."

Stitch in time...

STITCH 'N' BITCH is a sociable group of crafters who get together to learn new skills and show their passion for the crafts they do.

Whether you know one end of a crochet hook from the other or not, you'll find a warm welcome, which helps people to get to know one another.

The group also specialise in knitting, cross-stitch, dressmaking and card-making.

You may want to learn a new skill or just refresh, they are always happy to help.

So why not come along on a Monday morning, 9.30am to 11.30am, to Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, and give it a go? Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Barnardo's says thank you

ON October 22, a coffee morning was held in All Saints Church Hall, Park Road, Barry, to raise funds for the work of Barnardo's.

The committee were pleased that so many people supported such a worthy cause. Over £430 was raised by sales of tickets, cakes, bring and buy items and raffle tickets.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the event. All funds will be used to support the work of Barnardo's in Wales.

Mary Edmunds and Jen Morgan, On behalf of the Barry Barnardo's Committee.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... glamorgangem.co.uk

Hoax call on bonfire night for Barry lifeboat

VOLUNTEER crew on Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat were called away from the fireworks display on Saturday to respond to a call for help that proved to be bogus.

The coastguard had received a message on VHF radio to say a small motor boat had lost its engine and was sinking near Aberthaw. Both Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat and rescue helicopter 187 were launched and carried out an extensive search in perfect search conditions.

A spokesperson said: "Further information was then received that led Milford Haven Coastguard to believe that the call was a hoax. The lifeboat and helicopter, along with Llantwit Major Coastguard, were stood down and the search was called off.

"The lifeboat returned to station just after 9.30pm and was made ready for the next service before the volunteers headed home.

This was the second call out of the weekend: the first was on Friday evening at 7.45pm, to a 39ft yacht with no engine and a depleted power supply. The yacht was heading to Avonmouth, but after a discussion between the coxswain of the lifeboat and skipper of the yacht, it was agreed that the yacht should be towed back to Barry harbour.

"The lifeboat and yacht arrived back in Barry and the crew returned home just after 11pm.

"The RNLI charity relies on donations to carry out its lifesaving work. The station is grateful to the support it receives from supporters across the town and further afield.

"Fundraisers recently accepted a donation raised from sponsorship of the Barry Island Ferris Wheel pods. Thanks go to the Danter families and sponsors for their generosity."

For more information on the RNLI, or to donate, visit www.RNLI.org

'Gateway to Penarth' needs major improvements

A SURVEY carried out by Penarth Tourism & Visitor Association has shown that a considerable amount of work needs to be done to improve the 'Gateway to Penarth', principal entry route into Penarth from Cardiff and the M4.

Carried out on a voluntary basis by the association, it was said to indicate that substantial work was needed to improve the entire environment on the roadway between the Baron's Court traffic lights and Arcot Street, in the town centre.

A detailed work plan by PTVA submitted to the Vale Council three years ago, which has not yet been implemented according to the association, now requires urgent attention by the council; so that visitors to Penarth are not put off by the "scruffy and unkempt appearance of much of the 'public realm', that is evident to drivers as they enter Penarth from other parts of the country."

A spokesperson for the association said: "The Gateway Survey identified a number of key areas that need attention, including the general environment surrounding traffic signals at the Baron's Court junction, where dozens of grey poles and

several railings give a particularly bland and cluttered entry into Penarth, closely followed by the uninspiring mini-roundabout at the entrance to Penarth marina, which consists of more posts, vehicle barriers and painted concrete blocks.

"The survey picks up on the entry surrounds to Cogan Station, which it considers a priority area for improvement, and then moves to the entire length of road from the Cogan bus stop up to the railway bridge, which is completely unmanaged and lacking in visual appearance. Although representations have been made to Network Rail to have the bridge completely repainted, the request has fallen on deaf ears due to a 'lack of funding'."

The PTVA report makes clear that some minor improvements to the 'splitter island' at the junction of Plassey Street and Windsor Road would make a substantial improvement.

The spokesman said this week that it was time improvements were carried out, and that this work could probably be financed by the large sums of money arising from the Penarth Heights development, which is well on its way to completion.

Armistice Day display will remember them



Armistice window displays; below, the Penarth shop.



PARK Independent Funeral Directors, whose premises are opposite the Barry Library in Tynewydd Road, Barry, have assembled a window display in memory of service personnel who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts.

A second window display has also been produced for new premises in Penarth RNLI of £20 for every Stanwell Road, Penarth, with flags, funeral plan arranged by us."

uniforms and conflict medals which every year draws lots of interest from local residents.

A spokesman said: "We invite the public to call at either of our premises and view the displays. It's also an opportunity to meet our team.

"Our Penarth office has an opening offer of a donation to the Penarth RNLI of £20 for every Stanwell Road, Penarth, with flags, funeral plan arranged by us."

LEARNING CENTRE OPENED IN VALE



THE Leader and deputy Leader of the Vale Council welcomed the first learners to the new Vale Learning Centre this week, as the latest addition to Barry's Central Library opened its doors.

The new facility is the result of a £100,000 investment by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Couns Neil Moore and Lis Burnett toured the three classrooms, computer suite, office space and crèche which have transformed the library into a learning hub.

Construction was completed at the end of October and the state-of-the-art adult learning centre opened to the public on November 7.

Coun Lis Burnett, also cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "Education and lifelong learning is central to the Vale Council's regeneration work, and where better to locate a Learning Hub than the library, the first port of call for anyone seeking information?"

"This latest investment in Barry Library provides the whole Vale with a first class facility, purpose-built to help residents of all ages to gain skills and knowledge and broaden their horizons."

GVS can play a role at library

Council Leader Neil Moore and deputy Leader Lis Burnett heard from Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) staff, how the benefits of volunteering can complement activities at the new Vale Learning Centre in Barry library and enhance customers' opportunities.

GVS has a permanent stand at Barry Library with information leaflets about volunteering.

Staff are also available each Tuesday (9.30am – 11.30am), Wednesday (1pm – 3pm) and Friday (1pm – 2pm).

For further details about GVS, call 01446 741706, or email: enquiries@gvs.wales, or visit www.gvs.wales.

SOCIAL CARE 'OSCAR' FOR BARRY DAD

A NEW dad from Barry who works 'round the clock' for the benefit of elderly residents, is celebrating a national award.

Stephen Ivins, a maintenance and health and safety officer at the Romilly Nursing Home in Pontcanna, Cardiff, scooped a coveted gold award in the Social Care Health and Safety Award category of Wales Care Awards 2016.

The 42-year-old from Barry received his trophy at a ceremony in City Hall, Cardiff.

The awards, run by Care Forum Wales, acknowledge the hard work and exceptional performances of those in the care sector and are widely regarded as the 'Oscars' of the care industry.

Stephen, a former Ely Rangers footballer, said: "I was really nervous and excited at the same time. Winning gold is absolutely brilliant, but I wouldn't have been disappointed with silver or bronze. I'm very proud and chuffed to have won. My phone has been constantly out since coming back to the home, as all the residents want to see the photos from the night."

"It's nice for them to be able to share in the success. Everyone has been asking to see the trophy."



Stephen Ivins is "chuffed" to have won the award.

"It was a brilliant night and there were some real tear jerking moments in the stories that were told. It was an amazing experience."

Stephen, who has been in his current role for the past eight years, works around the clock to ensure his residents have the best living environment possible – including personalising the décor of their bedrooms to create a home from home.

The health and safety worker, who is often called out of his bed in the middle of the night to fix unforeseen maintenance problems, has had a few more interrupted nights since the birth of his son

Brodie Ivins, 16 months ago, but admits he wouldn't change his job for the world.

"When you decorate the rooms and put all the things they find nice and comforting and personal, it's very rewarding," said Stephen, who is responsible for all aspects of site management including health and safety, maintenance and fire safety.

Stephen, who lives with his partner Gemma and attended Bishop of Llandaff School in Cardiff, admits the only time he is unpopular with the residents is when he has to test the fire drill: "They all love me for that," he joked.

War cemetery visit prompted moving poem

JUST over 10 years ago, GEM reader Ivor Williams visited the Normandy beaches with his wife and daughter.

His experience there was profound, especially after first visiting the American cemetery and then a visit to a smaller British cemetery, just inland from Arromanches.

In the small cemetery, he found individual messages from family at the feet of the gravestones and individually, they were gentle but moving. At first, he could handle the sentiment behind them but the more messages he read, the more emotional he became until he reached a point, when he sobbed ... it was the first time his daughter had seen him cry.

The experience moved him to write a poem on returning home entitled '...But Not Forgotten.'

Ivor has now made a YouTube version of his poem with the addition of photographs and music. The link to his poem is youtu.be/f11oMU6BVDk.

...But Not Forgotten

*The battle might be over,
the battle might be won,
but someone lost a brother,
someone lost a son.*

*Someone lost an uncle,
someone lost a dad,
someone lost a lover
and the life they may have had.*

*Someone lost a comrade,
someone lost a friend,
someone lost the will to live
with a heart that wouldn't mend.*

*Someone stood among them
And, looking all around,
thought upon, not losses,
but a gratitude he'd found.*

*For someone thought he'd only seen
futility in war;
Yet someone found humility
he'd never felt before.*

*For someone found the reason
why they'd sacrificed their youth;
they found the courage to defend
what they'd believed was truth.*

*And someone found emotion
and someone found a pride;
and someone standing with them
was one who stood and cried.*

Dedicated Poppy sellers are praised



Alun Cairns meets the Poppy sellers in Barry.



Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns MP, visited volunteers raising money for the Royal British Legion at Barry's Waitrose branch in Palmerston and Tesco in Highlight Park to thank them for their work.

He was impressed by the dedication of the sellers, many of whom are putting in eight-hour shifts five days a week before being relieved by Scout and Cadet groups on evenings and weekends.

The volunteers in both supermarkets told Mr Cairns that the public were being even more generous than usual

in the week leading up to the commemorations of Britain's war dead, with thousands of poppies sold and collection tins filled to the brim every day.

The Vale MP said: "I am pleased that collections this year seem to be greater than they have been previously. I believe that this may be connected to the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, which will always have a solemn place in our collective memory."

"The Royal British Legion do a wonderful job in providing lifelong support for veterans and ensuring that we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Gareth beats off stiff competition to snatch gold prize

A KITCHEN assistant at St Cyres Comprehensive School in Penarth has scooped top prize in a catering competition for excellence.

Competing in the biscuit category of the Celtic Creations Competition, Gareth Humphries served up four delicious varieties of biscuit: parmesan and thyme, Viennese whirls, Christmas cake cookies and custard creams.

These were then judged during the afternoon of the Lead Association for Catering in Education's (LACA) recognition of excellence awards, with Gareth Humphries' selection being deemed most worthy of the gold award.

Entry into the competition was open to all catering staff from across the 22 local authorities in Wales, with another Vale of Glamorgan



Gareth Humphries.

representative – Hayley Fellows of Ysgol y Deri – receiving a merit for her cupcake entry.

Mr Humphries said: "I'd like to thank the catering management team for supporting me and Hayley, while competing in the competition. I've worked at St Cyres for almost two years now, and am thrilled to have won the award."

The LACA represents the country's school food industry, and has set out to inform, develop and represent its members through a range of initiatives and services. Its mission statement reads "Together, we achieve excellence in schools", and the event highlighted

those achieving excellence in their respective schools.

Other members of the Vale Councils catering team also received recognition for their contributions to excellence.

The team at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, for example, finished as finalists in the Frontline Catering Team category by displaying a high level of enthusiasm, initiative, commitment and effort in order to maintain a consistently high level of professional standards when supporting pupils and staff.

'True meaning of the poppy'

REMEMBRANCE Sunday takes places this week, as we all stop to reflect and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms.

While many associate Remembrance with the First and Second World Wars, it should not be forgotten that it is to honour all of those who have died or suffered in war.

The poppy is of course inspired by the sight of the flowers growing in battle-scarred fields during the First World War, and the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*. But it represents everyone affected by conflict, and is a symbol of remembrance and hope.

I know all residents will join me in paying tribute to the Royal British Legion for the work they do in supporting the Armed Forces Community, including serving men and women, veterans and their families.

November may be a time to collectively remember, but our brave servicemen and women – and those we have lost – should and will be in our thoughts all year round.

They put their own lives at risk to make ours safer, and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude that is too great to put into words.

Andrew RT Davies
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, South Wales Central AM.

'Harsher punishments for those who assault police' – Ogmores MP's call



OGMORE MP Chris Elmore has spoken in Parliament calling for increased punishment for those who assault police officers.

It is estimated that 23,000 police officers are assaulted every year, although this figure is thought to be much higher.

The MP said: "Officers in our community have been clear time and time again

that they believe their safety is endangered by the weak sentences given to those that assault officers.

"We must take these claims seriously and consider tougher sentences for those that attack the police. Unfortunately, officers who have been assaulted often don't even report or record the incident."

"No one should be assaulted at work. Especially when their work is making the communities we live in a

safe place." Records show that almost 2,000 officers are assaulted a month and on average an officer is assaulted every 22 minutes.

Mr Elmore joined the Police Federation in a campaign which called for a review of sentencing for those convicted of assaulting police officers, "as too often, sentences being passed do not adequately reflect the seriousness of the offence," he said.

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Golden age of travel is recalled during stately memorial drive around the Vale



RECENTLY, the stately age of travel was recaptured for a few days as two horse-drawn carriages made their way through the Vale and Bridgend county borough.

Entitled, 'Dr Mary's Memorial Horse and Coach Drive', the event was in memory of Dr Mary Lewis. Indeed, the team of four white horses, from Lewis and Isaac coaching, were frequently driven by Dr Mary herself.

There was also a second team of four Hackney horses pulling a coach, and the aim of the drive was to raise funds for Velindre Hospital.

The three-day event started at Cottrel Park Golf Club and finished at Nant Mwth Farm, Bridgend.

Along the way, they passed through Cowbridge, Llandow, Wick, Ogmere-by-Sea, Laleston and Coytraen.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk



Chance to meet local veterans and hear about Woody's Lodge

FRIDAY, November 11, Armistice Day, is more popularly known as Remembrance Day in the UK.

This Friday, at The Business Centre in Barry, not only will people have the opportunity to pay their respects to those in the Armed Forces and our veterans, but they can also hear about a new project, Woody's Lodge for veterans, that is being developed in the Vale.

As reported in The GEM recently, The Woody's Lodge Management Board (WLMB) has been working to open the Woody's Lodge Centre for veterans at RNR HMS Cambria.

Woody's Lodge, a much needed veterans' centre in the Vale, is named after and commemorates the life of local Royal Marine Paul 'Woody' Woodland, a member of the Special Boat Service who died in October 2012 during a training exercise while preparing for deployment to Afghanistan.

Initial analysis has shown that there are more than 5,000 veterans residing in Barry alone, with over 60 per cent of

these residents now over the age of 65 years, many of whom are possibly facing welfare, health and social problems.

Woody's Lodge will be there to offer companionship and direct signposting to agencies and organisations that offer required skilled support.

Chris Benson of Crystal IT, at The Business Centre Ltd, has arranged for the veterans of WLMB to come to use the meeting rooms and conference facilities at The Business Centre tomorrow, November 11, to explain more about this extremely important project.

It will be an opportunity for people to also meet the veterans themselves and to show their respect for Armed Forces and veterans with the minute's silence at 11am.

For more information about the event, contact the centre manager, James Mason on James@thebusinesscentreonline.co.uk or call 01446 739911, we look forward to welcoming local people in large numbers!

SARAH MASON

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

LIFT (Life Is For Today)
The LIFT group offers friendship and support to those affected by breast cancer.

We meet in Cowbridge once a fortnight, between 10am and 1pm for relaxation therapies or 2pm - 4pm for other activities such as speakers or trips out. Come and join us, bring a friend, for friendly, supportive and confidential get-togethers.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this group, ring Anne on 01446 772843 or Judith on 01446 794176.

Wenvoe craft fair

The first Wenvoe Christmas craft fair will take place on Sunday, November 27 from 10am - 4pm in

Wenvoe village hall.

Many stalls, including jewellery, handmade gifts, wall art, engraved glass and more; refreshments and a raffle on the day.

Toy and train sale

BARRY toy and train sale takes place on Sunday, November 27 from 10.30am - 3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry (CF63 4RU).

For more information call 01643 702757/07966 6 9 4 5 7 9 ; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Italian film festival

THE Italian Cultural Centre Wales presents its second Italian Film Festival Cardiff (IFFC), which will run from November 23 - 27 at Penarth Pier Pavilion

and Chapter Arts Centre.

The IFFC will be launched on November 23, at 6pm in the Pavilion with the opening of the Melanzasca exhibition, by illustrator and artist Silvano Beggio.

This will be followed at 7.30pm by Ermanno Olmi's latest masterpiece *Torneranno i Prati* (Greenery Will Bloom Again), a harrowing

account of World War One.

Producer Elisabetta Olmi will join the Q&A after the screening.

Cerddorfa Dinas Powys Orchestra

THIS year's winter concert will feature flute soloist Andy Martin in a programme of works by Beethoven and Mozart.

The concert will take place in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys on Sunday, December 4 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £8 (£3 age 12 and under) available at the door on the night; from Griffin Books, Penarth; or the Clerk, Dinas Powys Parish Hall. Call 02920 706288, or visit www.cdpo.org.uk.

Blaze at Aberkenfig closes Bridgend Road

POLICE were forced to close a road in Aberkenfig on Tuesday evening (November 8), after a fire broke out in a local business.

A South Wales Police spokesman said: "At 7:42pm today, police and fire officers responded to a report of a fire at Keens Tackle and Guns, a commercial premises on Bridgend

Road, Aberkenfig.

"The fire was quickly brought under control before it could spread to the main shop area of the premises.

"As a precaution, Bridgend Road has also been closed and will remain closed until further notice.

"Nobody was injured, and an investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing."

Porthcawl Mayor and Mayoress impressed on official visit to Sandville Self-Help Centre



REPORT and IMAGES by KEITH E MORGAN

RECENTLY, the Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, Coun Robert and Mrs Ann Lee, paid a formal visit to the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tôn Kenfig.

They were welcomed by Gary Banks, house manager, and Gareth Griffiths, care manager. Before being conducted on a tour of the establishment, they were greeted by patients arriving from Careau.

After morning tea, when they met kitchen volunteers they went on to the education training cabin therapy complex and met Coun Megan Butcher, a loyal supporter of the centre.

On the way back, they took time to admire the plaque commemorating the Duchess of Kent's visit to Sandville on June 25, 1993 and the plaque unveiled in the new sunken garden by the Duchess of Gloucester on her recent visit.



A stop was made at the sensory garden, and St Michael's Church. A service in the church every Sunday morning is conducted by Sister Gwyneth Poacher. Father Phillip Masson of Porthcawl visits on the first Wednesday in every month to hold a Holy Eucharist service.

At the log cabin, the Mayor and Mayoress were greeted by Sister Gwyneth Poacher where the obligatory official photograph was taken (right).



Bridgend Bridge Club news

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, November 2, the first round of the club's pairs competition: First, Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; Second, Vida Halford and Colin Thomas; Third, Alan Heath and Rob Forman. The winners on handicap were Alan

Heath and Rob Forman. Thursday, November 3: First, Colin Lewis and David Newman; Second, Diane Reynolds and Leila O'Hagan; Joint Third, Eileen Mahoney and Geoff Barnett & Christine and Geoff Tinkler. The winners on handicap were Colin Lewis and David Newman.

Friday, November 4: First, Tony Disney and

Laura Woodruff; Second, John Henson and Terry Dolan; Third, Norma and David Newman. The winners on handicap were John Heson and Terry Dolan.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall and on Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, where, although master points are still awarded, it is a gentle session where help is available with bidding.

There is a course running on Thursday

mornings at 11.30am at Noltan Church Hall and it is suitable for complete beginners and those who have played either whist or bridge and want to further their knowledge of this fascinating game. On Thursdays at 1.15pm there are seminars for improvers before the afternoon gentle bridge.

For further information about the club please contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138. DN

Athletic revise kick-off times

DURING the autumn internationals, Bridgend Athletic have brought forward their next two fixture kick-off times.

On November 12, away to league leaders Aberavon Quins, the kick-off time is now 12.30pm, and on November 26, at home at Newbridge Fields in the local derby against Maesteg, the kick-off time is now 12 noon.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk



From left: Kim Rowe, Dogs Trust; Darren Bromham-Nichols, aide to Caroline Jones AM; Caroline Jones AM; Bethan Catlin, Dogs Trust; Jill Sweet, secretary to Caroline Jones.

DOG MANIFESTO ON THE TRUST'S AGENDA

ON Friday (October 28) regional AM for South West Wales, Caroline Jones, visited Dogs Trust Bridgend for a tour of the rehoming centre.

Campaign Manager for Wales, Siân Edwards, reported: "It was an opportunity to discuss our 2016 Dog Manifesto for Wales, particularly our concerns about dog breeding practices and our preference for the Welsh Government to continue to take the lead on dog welfare, by extending their ban on electronic shock collars to other aversive training devices."

Caroline Jones commented: "Visiting Dogs

Trust Bridgend has been a fantastic opportunity for me to witness first hand the work the staff at the centre do and meet some of the dogs being cared for. As a sponsor of two Dogs Trust dogs it was a privilege to see the wonderful efforts of staff at the rehoming centre who work so tirelessly to ensure all unwanted, abandoned and stray dogs are cared for so well."

She added that she would be backing the Trust's call to see the current ban on electronic shock collars extended to cover spray, sonic and prong collars.

Largest rugby Sevens event ever to be held in Pencoed

WITH 3000 players and 50 referees over 3 days, the Urdd and Welsh Rugby Union today announced that the Welsh National Schools 7s Rugby Competition, Pencoed 2017 will be the largest ever held in Wales.

The competition, which will be held on April 4-6 next year, is open to teams from any secondary school or further education college in Wales.

WRU head of rugby participation, and former Wales captain, Ryan Jones said: "Sevens rugby is an exciting game which needs little introduction in Wales after the heroics of some of our greatest national Sevens players representing GB in Rio last summer. On the back of such

positive imagery of Sevens rugby beamed across the world, this is an exciting joint venture with the Urdd which will see the young people of Wales given more opportunity to participate in our sport.

"The Welsh National Schools 7s Rugby Competition will be the biggest tournament of its kind to be held in Wales and further confirms the WRU's ambition to increase participation by offering alternative forms of the game to new and existing players.

"This is a fantastic prospect for our young players which will hopefully bring a lasting positive rugby experience to engage players and their families in the sport for life. On behalf of the Welsh Rugby Union, I am very pleased to give the support to enable this to happen."

In response to the

announcement Councillor Huw David, the leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "As a county which has a proud history in rugby, we are very pleased that the Urdd and Welsh Rugby Union have decided to hold this major festival of 7s rugby here in Bridgend County Borough.

"Hundreds of local boys and girls play rugby every week across the county borough and I am sure that schools will be extremely excited about the opportunity to take part in such a prestigious tournament on their doorstep.

"We look forward to welcoming young players from all over Wales, and their families, to the area in April, and hope to see them again a month later when the Urdd National Eisteddfod itself is held in Pencoed."

In addition to the major event in Pencoed, the Urdd and WRU are working closely on developing competitions for boys and girls across Wales.

Amongst the developments for 2016/17 are a national 7s competition for primary schools and a national tag rugby competition for primary age girls, which will culminate in the finals in Aberystwyth in May.

For secondary schools there will be a further two competitions, a national touch rugby competition for boys, girls and mixed teams; and a national 7s rugby

competition for girls, which will culminate in the finals in Llanelli in June.

Gary Lewis, Urdd Gobaith Cymru's director of sports said:

"The Urdd is very pleased to be able to announce the strengthening of our partnership with the Welsh Rugby Union, and as a result we have been able to expand on all of our girls and boys' rugby activity, which includes the national 7s rugby competition which will be a fantastic three days of rugby."

"A special thanks goes to Pencoed Town Council, Pencoed Rugby Club, Bridgend College, Pencoed Comprehensive School and Bridgend County Borough Council for their assistance in securing the location for the competition."

"We would also like to thank the Urdd sports department's main sponsor, Aberystwyth University. This partnership helps us develop all aspects of the department's work, including competitions, encouraging children and young people to participate in all types of sports," he added.

More information about the rugby competitions, and all other Urdd Gobaith Cymru sports activities can be found on the website www.urdd.cymru/sport.

Politicos pedal for the Poppy Appeal



ABOVE: Andrew RT Davies with Dave Ireland of Change Step Wales and Simone Leonce of Vitality Gyms.

RIGHT: Huw Irranca-Davies pedals to remember fallen British and Commonwealth servicemen.

IT's a long way to Tipperary, but it is also a long way to Mametz Wood – scene of typically bloody fighting during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 – especially if one 'cycles' there.

Local AMs, including Andrew RT Davies, Huw Irranca-Davies and Jane Hutt took part in a static bike ride at the Senedd, organised by and to show support for the Royal British Legion (RBL).

Said Mr Davies: "The RBL held the event in the Senedd for the first time this year, which involves AMs riding on static bikes as they attempt to

collectively cover the entire distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood," he explained.

He urged local residents to show their support for those who have risked and sacrificed their lives to defend our country's freedoms on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

Mr Davies said: "The RBL does fantastic work supporting veterans and it was great to take part in their attempt to collectively ride the distance from the Assembly to Mametz Wood."

Mr Irranca-Davies and Ms Hutt gave similar thanks to the RBL, commenting that they were "pleased to have been able to support such a worthy cause".

No furrowed brows at ploughing match

ON October 27 the Vale of Glamorgan & Hedging Society held a meeting in the Six Bells Inn, Penmark.

The chairman, Andrew Studley, opened the meeting with a vote of thanks to all those who worked hard to make the ploughing match held in September a great success – the competitors, judges, stewards, office staff and, above all, Graham David (president) for making the site available at Little West.

He was also pleased to report that the match was well supported by the public, in spite of a few heavy showers which would have put many people off attending.

The secretary, Sarah Radcliffe, confirmed that the ploughing match had been a very successful event, and thanked the sponsors for their co-operation and support throughout, adding a big 'thank you' to the Tractor Boys/Girls of Aberthor for looking after the catering tent.

The treasurer, Rhys Morgan, had a smile on his face when he reported that the money raised at the gate and in the raffle was "most acceptable" and, after all the invoices had been paid, left a healthy balance in the accounts for 2017.

The chairman informed the meeting that due to popular

demand there would be a society ploughing event in Gileston in late March 2017 for members and friends and will be restricted to a small number of classes.

Programmes will be available after the January meeting of the society.

It is also hoped that the society will stage an event in September 2017 at Boverton, which will incorporate the All Wales Ploughing Championship and the Ferguson T.20 Tractor and Plough Welsh Open event.

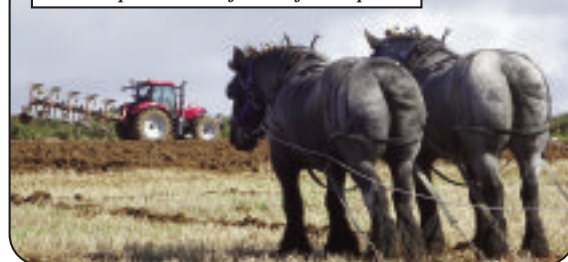
Further details will be published in the New Year.

John Thomas of Gileston informed the meeting that the hedge cutting event will again be held in the Vale and a site is being sought for a hedge laying event in late March 2017. The society is considering purchasing its own tent etc for 2017.

Finally, one of the society's founding members, Jeremy Jacobs, a well-known competitor in the UK and Europe and who competes under the banner of the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society, will be sponsored by the society to help with travelling expenses etc, and all wished him well in his competitions.

Any member or supporter of the society who wishes to help in any way, can contact the chairman on 07980 921990, or the secretary on 07976 95068. BG

Past and present: two forms of horsepower.



Barry men entertained on the 'Butch' railway

THE chairman of Barry Men's Forum welcomed new member Hayden Burgess, before introducing the speaker for the morning, Mr Alan Salisbury, who told how on a holiday in America he was persuaded by a fellow traveller to go on the Narrow Gauge railway in the Rockies, that winds precariously between the mountains and the Animas River in the valley.

A renowned American railway engineer, William Palmer, married in 1880 and came to Britain on his honeymoon. In Wales he visited Blaenau Ffestiniog, and was very interested in the railway, taking back with him full details of this 3-foot gauge track and engines.

On returning to America, he started constructing the Durango to Silverton Railroad, and in nine months, the 45 miles of track was completed, able to provide the silver boom town, with a connection to the outside world; 135 years later it is carrying 170,000

passengers per year.

Alan showed a film he had taken of his trip, which takes three and half hours each way, as it steams to an altitude of 9,000 feet, using 6 tons of coal.

It crosses the river over five bridges, and clings to the side of the mountains in frightening spectacular fashion, making it difficult even just watching the film, to take in the beauty of the surroundings.

He said most of us, would have seen parts of the railroad previously, as it has been used in numerous films, such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

The next meeting is on November 10, when Mr Chris Baker will be talking about the Llantrisant-based Royal Mint.

New members are welcome at £2 per meeting, 10.15am.

The Barry Men's Forum meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, every Thursday morning, for further information, contact the chairman Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

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The storm of war, and how it affected one Welsh soldier



Left to right: Haydn pictured with his sisters, Moira, Dilys and Beryl, a few years ago.

by TIM CHAPMAN

IN a week when Remembrance is a central part of our lives, a woman from Barry was keen to pay tribute to her brother, who served in the Army, and to explain the sort of sacrifices his generation made for the people of today.

Mrs Moira Marsh (92) told The GEM how her brother Haydn (now 95) had come to serve in the Army in the Second World War.

At the time the family lived in Abertillery.

Moira explained that in those days young people were given little choice in life.

"His life fell apart because he had to go down the Six Bells pit at the age of 14. He was a brilliant scholar, well read, loved by us all, and should have gone to university. The pit had experienced many blasts.

"He was there until the age of 17 and then he came back home one day and said 'I can't stick it any more, I'm joining the Army'."

The decision sent shockwaves through the family and their parents Elsie May and George, were devastated.

"For my mother, it seemed like the end. He left Wales and headed for Falkirk where he joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

"My father was a noted opera singer, who came to Abertillery from Letterston in Pembrokeshire. While Hadyn was in Scotland he won £30 in a talent contest singing *I Walk Beside You*, one of my father's favourite songs."

But that carefree time in Scotland was to give way to the horrors of

war when he took part in the Allied invasion of Italy.

"Haydn was shipped to Salerno and had to come off one of the launches. Half the regiment were blown to pieces.

"My brother was wounded – shot in the leg – and designated 'missing in action'. The family received a telegram which said he was 'presumed dead'. My mother collapsed – we were all around her."

But Haydn and other soldiers were up in the Italian mountains, and when word came through to Abertillery that he was still alive, there was great joy in the house.

At one stage, he feared the leg would be amputated. He later left an Italian hospital and was demobbed from his barracks in London.

He returned to Wales only to discover the young woman he loved had not waited for him.

"It broke his heart," said Moira.

He never married. After the war, Haydn was employed by Northern Aluminium Works, and moved to Barry in 1954 to work for BP. Other family members had moved to the town, including Moira, who worked at the Barry Hotel.

Haydn was presented with a gold watch by BP on May 17, 1979, to commemorate 25 years of loyal service.

He used to live in Pontallun Close, Barry, not far from Moira, but last year had a fall while he was cooking.

He now lives at Orchard House care home in the town.

Moira said: "He suffered not only from what happened in the war, but after it. I love him dearly. He fought so others can live their lives today."

Remembrance walk for Stacey

FAMILY and friends of Stacey Armstrong from Barry, have taken part in an annual 'Footprints' walk in her memory, in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust charity devoted to helping young people across the UK with cancer.

This was the second time that the Footprints walk has taken place along with other events held to celebrate Stacey's life which have including a head shave, barbecue, raffle and fun day over the past six years.

Since fundraising began, Stacey's friends, family and the local community have raised £31,000 to support the work of Teenage Cancer Trust in Wales.

All funds raised by the group will be donated to the trust.

Stacey's friends and family decided to take on the 'Footprints in Memory of Stacey challenge', which saw a team of 78 walk the 15 miles from Barry Island train station to Cardiff Bay, some 30,000 steps each, because of the help and support that Stacey received during her time at the Teenage Cancer Trust in Cardiff.

Stacey's sister, Natalia commented: "We'd like to thank everyone for their support in helping us to raise this incredible amount of money for Teenage Cancer Trust over the past few years. We'd like to thank our friends, family and local community for their continued support of our efforts on behalf of the charity."

Debbie Jones, Regional Fundraising Manager, South Wales said: "Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to improving the quality of life and chances of survival for the seven

young people aged 13 to 24 diagnosed with cancer every day. The charity funds and builds specialist units in NHS hospitals and provides dedicated staff, bringing young people together, so they can be treated by teenage cancer experts in the best place for them.

"Traditionally treated alongside children or elderly patients at the end of their lives, young people can feel extremely isolated, some never meeting another young person with cancer. Being treated alongside others their own age can make a huge difference to their whole experience."

"Teenage Cancer Trust wants every young person with cancer to have access to this specialist support, no matter where they live."

"Every day, our specialist staff are there to make sure young people with cancer and their families and friends, don't face it alone. We provide expert care and support before, during and after treatment and bring young people together to support each other."

"Most of all we want them to be young people first, cancer patients second. But we need the help of our incredible supporters across Wales to help us do more. Currently for every young person we reach there is another we cannot."

"We want to be there for them all. Cancer sucks. Young people shouldn't have to face cancer alone. Together we can make sure they don't," Debbie added.

• If you would like to take on a challenge of your own to help transform the lives of young people with cancer in Wales, visit www.teenagecancertrust.org or email hello@teenagecancertrust.org.

Bridgend county scoop special schools' Football Challenge Shield award

THE annual football competition organised by the Rotary Club of Bridgend and sponsored by past Rotarian Derek Gaynor, was held at Heronsbridge School, Bridgend, on October 20.

All special schools across south Wales were eligible to participate and all the players taking part were presented with medals by the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Reg Jenkins and Rotary president Dr Bob Broughton.

The winners' shield was presented to Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend. The runners up were Greenfields from Merthyr Tydfil.

Pen-Y-Bryn from Swansea was the most improved team and the Fairplay award went to Headlands from Penarth.

The player of the tournament was Cane Dickenson, from Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend.

Bridgend Rotary Club would like to congratulate all the participating schools and their supporters for the friendly but competitive manner in which the tournament was held; and thanks the organisers Rotarian Edgar Burt and past Rotarian Derek Gaynor for their continued commitment and dedication.

RTN ALAN REEKS



The winners, Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend.



Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Coun Reg Jenkins (centre) (and consort) and Rotary Club of Bridgend president Dr Bob Broughton.

FROM WEST TO EAST! Karma moves to its new Cowbridge home

THE Cowbridge-based beauty salon, Karma Beauty, held an opening day last week to celebrate its move to new premises.

It was an 'west-east' move – from Westgate to Eastgate – and customers were treated to Prosecco and cup cakes as they took a chance to look around the new salon, try a few treatments and plan ahead.

In the evening, there was entertainment from Cowbridge's own songbird, soprano Ellen Williams, who was accompanied on piano by Megan Morris.

Ellen opened her set with the title song from her latest album, *Skylark* – a song that she wrote herself.

Mel Webb, the owner of Karma Beauty, said that it had been an excellent day, and that she and her daughter Lauren were looking forward to welcoming clients old and new to the new premises.



ABOVE: Mel (second right) and Lauren (right) with members of the Karma team.

BELOW: Customers enjoying the atmosphere on opening day.



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Family Notices

CAIN Edwin John

Suddenly on October 31 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Edwin of St. Athan. Beloved husband of Eileen, much loved stepfather, grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônmon. Funeral Tuesday, November 15, service 2pm at Flemingston Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home. Donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Ffônmon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

BARNES Anne (née Bird)

Peacefully on November 1 at Llandough Hospital, Anne, aged 90 years, of Sully. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved sister and sister-in-law, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônmon. Funeral Friday, November 11, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Stroke Association c/o J James, 11 Ffônmon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

HOOPER Teresa Bernadette (née Dawes)

Peacefully on November 1 at home, aged 89, Bernadette, beloved wife of the late Bernard. Loving mother of Barbara, John, Michael, Teresa, Catherine and Pauline. Also devoted grandmother and great grandmother. She will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting at James Summers & Son Lavernock Court, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP until being received into St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday, November 15 at 4.30pm, followed by Requiem Mass on Wednesday, November 16 at 11am and then afterwards at Penarth Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, or donations in lieu, if desired, to St Vincent De Paul Society. Donations can be taken at St Josephs Roman Catholic Church.

GLOVER Joan Blodeuwedd



Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on November 1st, aged 99.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain
When you wake in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.*

With love, Andrew and Rachel and all of the family.
(No service by mum's request)

KNIGHT Mary (née Williams)

Passed, aged 62, after bravely enduring her fight with cancer. Much loved wife of Rick, daughter of Barbara, sister to Catherine, mother to Susan and Jenny, step mum to Karen, nanny to Sean, Sienna and Ella.

Mary will be missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, November 14 at 3.45pm. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

VERNON Colin William

(16 February 1942 - 1 September 2016)

The School of Biosciences have returned Colin's body to the family for his funeral on Monday, November 21 at 10.30am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, where friends and family please meet.

Donations, if so desired, to the British Heart Foundation, 2096 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3YU.

JONES Hilda Margery

Hilda of Pontypridd Street, Barry, died peacefully after a long illness. Devoted and loving wife of the late Tom, much loved mother of Ken, Phil, Graham and the late Adrian. Mother-in-law to Maureen, Lyn and Fran. Devoted nan and grandmother to Ken, Gavin, Rhian, Catherine, Gemma, Sarah and Debbie, Sharon and Lesley and a loving great grandmother and great great grandmother.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until a Service of Remembrance at All Saints Church, Barry, on Friday, November 18, at 1pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only please. Donations to Ty Hafan, the Hospice for Children in Wales, may be made at the service or to A.G. Adams & Son.

JONES Thomas Philip (Phil)

Phil of Pontypridd Street, Barry, died unexpectedly at home. Loving son of Hilda and the late Tom and much loved brother of Ken, Graham and the late Adrian. Brother-in-law to Maureen, Lyn and Fran and uncle to Ken, Gavin, Rhian, Catherine, Gemma, Sarah and Debbie, Sharon and Lesley.

A celebration of his life, followed by cremation, will take place on Friday, November 18 at 3pm, at Barry Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations to the Injured Jockeys Fund may be made at the service or to A.G. Adams & Son.

WALLIS Margaret

Peacefully on Friday, November 4, Margaret, much loved wife of the late William, loving mother of Sian, Rhys, Gaynor and the late Keith. Adored grandmother and great grandmother. She will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St James Church, Wick on Friday, November 18 at 2pm, followed by interment.

Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major. Donations, if desired, to the Motor Neurone Disease, David Niven House, 10-15 Notre Dame Mews, Northampton, NN1 2BG.

WOODHAM

Alison Jane (AJ) (née Murray)

Peacefully on November 4 at Llandough Hospital, Alison Jane (AJ) of Cwm Talvg, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Jeff, a loved mother of Sophie and Jessica. Much loved daughter of Winifred and the late Mervyn, sister of Lynne.

AJ will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. Funeral service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, November 18 at 10.15am, where family and friends please meet. Black attire not requested, any colour may be worn. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

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DAVIES

Pete (of Exeter)

Elaine, Owen, Gareth and Alan would like to thank all those who attended Pete's funeral last week. Thanks too for all the letters, cards, telephone calls and messages of sympathy.

Thank you to Canon David Brunning for conducting such an uplifting service and to Thomas Brothers for their efficiency and kindness, and thank you to the staff at the Victoria Inn, Singingstone for their hospitality following the service.

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Public Notice

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Gavin Price trading as Gavin Price of 19 Heol Ysgawen, Llanharan, Pontyclun, CF72 9GB is applying to add an operating licence as follows. To add an operating licence to keep 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at Llanharan Concrete, Llanharan, CF72 9RN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Birthday's

Happy 80th Birthday Mum
Mary Phipps
(Née Lynch)
on 13th November.
All my love forever
Paul xxx

Lewis Thomas
Happy 18th Birthday
to our darling boy
on 11th November
All our love always from
Mum, Dad, Sam & Owen xxx

Mary Phipps
Happy 80th Birthday Mam
13th November
Lots of love
Stephen, Bernadette,
Ben and Abbie
xxx

Look who's 18!
Lewis Thomas
How you've grown!
On 11th November
Love always
Nan, Bamps & Poppy
xxx

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Due to expansion Cherish Cymru requires Home Care Workers

to cover Barry, Cowbridge & Llantwit Major. Own transport essential. Full time availability required. Hours ranging from 7am to 11pm. Must be available to work weekends. Contact Robin Kiff on 01446 772904 or cherishcymru@hotmail.co.uk

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Lots of love from Justin xxx

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Barry Hospital opens a new support centre



Staff and volunteers with Jane Hutt AM at the opening of the Information Centre at Barry Hospital.

A NEW information and support centre was officially opened on November 3 at Barry Hospital, signposting health and wellbeing; local services; signposting for financial and legal advice and volunteering.

Jane Rowlands-Mellor, Lead Nurse for Patient Experience at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) said: "This is the third information and support centre that we have opened at the health board, and from feedback received, we are aware that this face-to-face contact has made a huge difference in enhancing the visitors' experience."

"We are encouraged by the number of people who visit the centres and just in the Macmillan Information and Support Centre at the University Hospital of Wales, we see more than 2,500 visitors each year."

Welsh Assembly cabinet member Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan, said: "It is wonderful to see such progress in developing the services provided at Barry Hospital and such valuable new support available for local people."

"There has already been such positive work done by staff and volunteers, and I am delighted that the centre is now officially open."

The centre is open for information between 8.30am - 3.30pm, Monday to Friday and members of the Patient Experience Team, Third Sector colleagues and health board volunteers are generally available between 9am - 12.00pm to provide assistance and support.

To find out more about Barry Information and Support Centre, visit: <http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/barry-hospital-info-support-centre>

Alan and Adam shine!

ALAN JOHNS, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, was in cracking form at Lingfield Park on Tuesday.

The 3lb claiming jockey landed a double for his boss which was initiated when Galros Lady the 11-10 favourite came home a six lengths winner of the Ryan Vehicles Handicap Chase.

About 90 minutes later, riding 5-4 favourite TheLigny in the Weatherbys Hamilton Handicap Hurdle, Alan got his mount home by a length from the bottom weighted Laughane. TheLigny was winning for the third time on the bounce.

ADAM'S SEDGFIELD SUCCESS At Sedgfield, Llancafnan's Evan Williams' five-year-old brown gelding, Prime Venture, won the opening British Stallion Studs EBF National Hunt Novices Hurdle, finishing three lengths in front of Ca Le Ferra.

Prime Venture was partnered by Adam Wedge, and was returned at odds of 5-2.

BRIAN LEE

Rotary put their stamp on Christmas

"Christmas is coming" says the old song and it's certainly one of the busiest times of the year for the Rotary Club of Porthcawl.

Just around the corner is the start of the Rotary Post: stamps costing only 25p can be bought from these retail outlets in Porthcawl, and Christmas cards can also be posted at the following stores:

Jane's Forget-Me-Not, John Street; Walters Shoe Shop, John Street; DH Edwards & Son (Television), Well Street; Stationery Hill, Station Hill; Lifestyle Express, New Road; Spar, Newton Village; Parc Stores, Cilparc; Nottage Stores, Nottage Village; General Stores, The Precinct, Rest Bay.

FESTIVE LUNCH

THE guest speaker at this year's Bridgend Business Forum Christmas lunch at the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel on Friday, December 16 will be Canadian comedian, Sean Collins.

Full details at business@bridgend.gov.uk.

Rotary 'Posties' will collect and deliver to any address in the CF36 area. Stamps can be bought from November 14 and the last date for posting cards is December 12.

Also, the Porthcawl club will be holding the Christmas tree festival in conjunction with All Saints' Church between November 28 and December 5.

The festival has been growing in popularity each year, with its magnificent, colourful display of Christmas trees decorated to reflect each organisation, school etc that takes part. There will be a programme of entertainment running right through the week.

Some spaces are still available, so if your organisation would like to take part contact Rotarian Robert Snell for more details. His email address is dawnandrob@hotmail.com, or telephone 01656 - 771623.

After that will be the Rotary Carolcade - the routes and nights will be announced in a few weeks. Christmas may be coming but, unlike the geese, the Rotarians have too much to do to be getting fat!

IVOR WILLIAMS

The view from the victors... as Vale defeat Saints

IN what was the stand-out tie of the round, Vale United left St Athan having booked their place in the semi-finals of the Barry Cup, with a deserved 3-1 victory.

The away team resisted the temptation to tinker with their team and fielded the same starting 11 that had impressively dispatched Penarth the previous week, with captain Richard Evans retaining his midfield berth ahead of Matt Hobbs.

The front three, once again, consisted of Gregory, Ryan Jenkins and the flying Scotsman, Jay Tominey, who was looking to continue his impressive scoring form of 11 in four games.

The game started in hectic fashion, with Vale conceding an early corner from which the home side went ahead in bizarre fashion, the wind-assisted set-piece flying straight into the visitors' goal to give the home side an early lead, which they surely hoped they could build on.

This wasn't the first time Vale had conceded an early goal this season and they had gone on to win in all the previous games this has happened, so there was certainly no need to press the panic button.

United stuck to their game plan and were looking to showcase some of the football which has seen them win 11 out of 11 games in all competitions this season and it wasn't long before they got back into the game through skipper Evans' penalty kick.

The award of the penalty came after a superb switch of play by Tominey picked out rangy winger Gregory, who was upended just inside the box with the goal at his mercy.

The referee had no option but to award

the penalty, which Evans confidently slotted home for his fifth goal of the season, all from the 12 yard mark.

Vale continued to dominate possession and really should have gone ahead, with midfield duo Dan Hanson and Phil Caseley both culpable of missing gilt-edged chances, while Tominey also skewed wide after rounding the keeper.

The away team were nearly made to pay for their profligacy in front of goal as the Saints, who always looked dangerous on the counter, took advantage of some hesitancy from a throw-in to send their number 9 through one-on-one with keeper Gerwyn Teague, who thwarted the diminutive forward with a fine one-on-one save.

Minutes later, it was the home side's turn to live dangerously, as a thunderous header from buccaneering centre-back Joe Williams was magnificently palmed away by the home goalkeeper, the latest in a string of fine saves from the young number one.

As half time approached, the game simmered down as both teams sought a chance to catch their breath after an incident packed first half.

The home side was the quickest out of the blocks at the start of the half, again catching Vale on the break, with their tricky left winger sent through one-on-one with Teague, who again repelled the effort and was quickly back on his feet to turn away another effort from the same player.

However, United soon went 1-2 ahead and the scorer came as no surprise, Tominey wheeling away in celebration after nudging the visitors in front following a goalmouth scramble.

This jolted United into life and they

looked to extend their advantage within a matter of minutes, Jenkins seeing a long-range effort pushed away by the home goalkeeper.

After soaking up a period of sustained pressure, St Athan once again broke quickly and carved out yet another one-on-one chance.

The keeper was soundly beaten this time but the striker saw the ball strike the upright before bouncing into the path of an onrushing team-mate - however, the home team and crowd, in particular, didn't envisage Vale's left back, James Davies, heroically throwing himself in front of the ball, not once but twice, to somehow keep the score at 1-2.

It was as good as a goal and the away fans celebrated as if they had just scored and minutes later, they did, Tominey grabbing his second of the game with a deft finish to put the away side in cruise control at 1-3 and knock the stuffing out of the hosts once and for all.

For all the passion and honest endeavour shown throughout the game, the game ended on a sour note, with St Athan centre back, Nicky Cox, who had endured a torrid afternoon against the impressive Vale front three, dismissed for a tackle on Tominey.

The referee did well to produce the card so quick and diffuse the situation, with the incident threatening to spill over and spoil a hard-fought game. With just minutes left, the dismissal extinguished any hopes of a possible late fightback and Vale saw out the game comfortably to progress to the semi-finals.

GT

The St Athan vets celebrate successes



EVERY year the St Athan Golf Club veteran section has an autumn festival on the first Wednesday of October, when all the trophies are presented to the winners of competitions played during the year.

On Wednesday, October 5, a nine hole competition was played by 53 members of the section and the winners were as follows:

Terry Williams Trophy for the best medal net won by Mike Hurry, The Harry Kenyon Trophy for best medal net for over 68-years-old was won by Derek Williams.

The Dave Thompson Trophy Best Medal Gross was won by Gary James and The Emrys Jenkins Trophy was won by Bill Wake.

From the competitions played during the year, the winners were as follows:

Winter Eclectic, Eric Hallett; The Alec Beattie by Jim Hawkins; The Tom Thomas for the pairs foursomes by Derek Williams and Peter Purnell; The Sunderland Trophy and the Ken Butler Cup were won by Roger Davidge, who was unable to attend due other commitments.

All the trophies and cups were presented by the veterans captain Bill Craythorne, who congratulated all winners.

Leanne, our caterer, put on a great lunch of three different choices and was enjoyed by all, along with some liquid refreshment.

Our course was in an excellent condition on the day and the green staff are to be congratulated. For more information, please contact our club manager Anita McKinstry on 01446 751043 or take look on our website - www.rafstathange.co.uk.

ID

Llantwit Major RFC prepare for St Albans trip

WITH no rugby last weekend due to the Wales v Australia game, this Saturday sees Llantwit Major RFC return to action in the league as they travel to Cardiff to take on bottom side St Albans RFC.

The Llantionians will be hoping they can take their recent impressive home form onto the road as they look for their first away win of the season.

Last week saw the draw for the fourth round of the National Bowl taking place with Llantwit given a tough away fixture to Monmouth RFC who play in a division higher than them in the corresponding eastern league.

The tie is due to be played on Saturday, December 10, with the club running a supporters bus to the game - members and non-members are welcome to attend. Details of travel will be made closer to the fixture.

AH

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glamorgan-gem.co.uk



Llantwit Major make progress in Welsh Cup

L L A N T W I T MAJOR welcomed Llandrindod Wells in the Welsh JD Cup at the Windmill Lane.

With the third round draw bringing in the bigger guns, both teams were desperate for the victory. Llantwit Major started very well and dictated the tempo of the game through Jon Fletcher and Kristian Smith.

Major continued to get winger Rob Jones on the ball and he looked threatening every time he got the ball.

Major went in at half-time very disappointed not to score as Lee Jones, Luke Cox and Rob Jones missed some clear-cut chances.

The second half brought out a purposeful Llantwit Major as they become more direct, with full backs Jon Butler and Glyn Davies going forward on at every opportunity.

Flooding the opponents' box at every opportunity, Llantwit were still unable to find a way through.

The deadlock was finally broken on the 60th minute as a Jake Roberts' corner was met by Lee Jones, who rose to head the ball in the top corner.

Llantwit continued to push for another goal but after a loose ball at the

back, the Wells striker broke through and was fouled by centre back Ross Lowry, who was shown a red card for his efforts.

Surprisingly, this didn't change the tempo of the game, Llantwit still created chances, but in the end they had to settle for a 1-0 win.

The draw for the next round sees Llantwit Major face Cefn Druids from the Welsh Premiership away, a great draw for the club and also an excellent opportunity to challenge a team from the top tier in Wales.

Manager Karl Lewis said: "The boys were excellent in the game against Llandrindod and we never looked like conceding. We created many chances but very happy to progress to the next round."

"We won't be travelling to Cefn Druids to get beaten, we will look to win and progress. After cup victories over Barry Town, Aberdare Town and Croesyceilog, we will have confidence playing teams from the highest division."

"This is a great occasion for Llantwit Major football club and I'm extremely proud to be involved with these bunch of players," he added.

JB

AmmoKnights blow away Cefn Coed

AFTER the Hallowe'en horrors of the previous Sunday one could be forgiven for thinking that the AmmoKnights would be suffering from a crisis of confidence.

Any such doubts were blown away early as the home team produced a display that was crisper than the early morning frost. Normally slow starters

the AmmoKnights looked slick straight from kick off as they moved the ball round with a purpose and an attacking intent that left the visiting Cefn Coed stunned.

Their first venture into Cefn Coed territory paid immediate dividends as the Cefn defence rushed up, fly half Ben Reilly put a grubber kick through, that stopped dead on the try line.

Fullback Ethan White needed no greater invite and proceeded to rush through and dive on the ball to score the first try.

Morgan Jenkins soon added the second after a powerful scrum on halfway allowed him the space to pick the ball up and hand off three would-be tacklers before scoring under the posts.

Two minutes later the home team scored their third try as wing Morgan Heslton bulldozed through the defence to score his first of the day and give the

AmmoKnights a 17-0 lead.

Cefn Coed showed their character to respond with a try of their own as their rumbustious centre broke free of the centre defence to run 40 yards to score.

This score only seemed to sting the AmmoKnights who proceeded to run in four more unanswered tries.

The pick of these was a sublime chip and chase by centre Will Stewart.

After bursting through the Cefn Coed defence, Stewart showed great composure to chip the full back and race through to score the try. Heslton and Stewart both secured a first half brace before the half finished with Sam Croucher scoring the home team's seventh try of the half, amassing a 47-7 lead.

The second half saw the visitors have the advantage of both the slope and wind and they made it pay to their advantage.

Five minutes into the second half the game looked as if momentum had changed as the visitors started to use their efficient power game.

Attacking round the fringes of the breakdown, Cefn managed to catch Llantwit napping on two occasions.

At 47-19 a comeback looked on the cards, however Llantwit were in no mood to surrender and started to nullify the

MR

SIMON ON TARGET AS HE PASSES LICENCE!



Simon Miskin.



AFTER 10 months of rigorous study, involving written and practical work, mentored coaching, three residential training weekends and a final three hour assessment, Simon Miskin, head coach at Caerau Dragon Bowmen Target Archery Club, has gained his Level 2 Licence and Coaching Award from Archery GB, the national governing body for Target Archery.

"All the hard work was worth it, not just the practical coaching of other archers, but researching the technical theory of shooting and learning about how muscle groups work together as well," said Simon.

The course covered archer profiling, anatomy, nutrition, physical and mental training in preparation for competition as well as equipment selection and maintenance. "We also completed a disability awareness practical session in which we attempted to experience shooting with a range

of impairments," explained Simon.

"Shooting with blacked out or partially misted goggles, shooting using only one arm and drawing the bow string using neck muscles and teeth, and shooting from a seated position in a wheelchair, all gave insight and understanding into some of the problems encountered by disabled archers and how coaching plans can be adapted to be inclusive."

"The course was immense fun as well as the 10 candidates were from a wide geographical area, we were able to swap ideas and share best practice. This achievement will now allow me to focus on intermediate archers in preparation for competition and further develop the potential of our junior club members."

Simon, who has been shooting for 12 years, is an active voluntary member of Caerau Dragon Bowmen and has been running indoor and outdoor beginners sessions for novices throughout the year as well as fitting in his course preparation.

"I would like to extend my thanks to all club members for

their support during the past year, especially to Denise Davies for her mentoring sessions throughout the course, and to Tony who agreed to be coached by myself for the past 10 months and accompanied me to the final assessment session in Bristol; Tony's technique has improved greatly - along with his scores!"

The club is also grateful for contributions towards funding the course from the Vale of Glamorgan's Community Chest Scheme, the Sports Council for Wales, and the Cardiff & Vale Scouts.

The Caerau Dragons are a target archery club based at St. Richard Gwyn RC High School in Barry. New archers are always welcome and archers from other clubs can shoot on production of their AGB membership card.

The club also offers coaching and development 'clinics' for intermediate archers, and the next of these is on Sunday, November 27 - contact Denise Davies on 02920 484509 (evenings) for full details, booking essential.

SM

Under-11s in a round-robin

THIS week Cowbridge under-11s travelled to St Peters RFC in Cardiff for a round-robin event against the hosts and Old Penarthians RFC.

Cowbridge had decided to take the Tigers to this event earlier in the season. First up against the Tigers were Old Pens who dominated the encounter from the kick-off.

The Tigers slipped to a 49-0 deficit with the forwards being punished at the breakdown area and little opportunity for the backs to develop their running game. With the last play of the game, a quick turnover ball from Joe Arentsen eventually fell to Will Brennan who then weaved a full length run from his own line to go over and score for the

Tigers, Sam Sheppard converted to take it to 49-7 at the whistle.

The second game against St Peters was a tighter affair. The team demonstrated much-improved running, tackling and clearing out at the breakdown. Osian Bruce ran in two tries, powering through from midfield, added to by Josh Canning, also running freely with the ball worked well through the hands.

With Sam Sheppard converting all three, the final score was 26-21 to St Peters. The team developed well over the course of the morning and again the squad is reaping the benefits of the opportunities presented by the coaching team, securing enough rugby for the 30-plus players each week - keep it up boys.

DH

Wolves gives Blacks blues!

THE young Dinas Powys Wolves didn't take long to get themselves in their stride on Saturday against Cowbridge Blacks.

Working hard at training on the movement from the attackers has been really important, and the hard work clearly showed with an abundance of fine goals.

Joe Doughty opened the scoring, firing home from 20 yards, before Bayley Harewood, Callum Hewitson, Zak Fildes, Cole Saunders

and Conor O'Brien scored. Cowbridge pulled one back before the break with a fine attacking move down the left.

The second half turned into the Zak Fildes scoring show as he added another three. Further goals from Jake Lewis, birthday boy Jake Frost and Jacob Perria completed the scoring.

Kyle Booker and Rian Thomas were both having fine games as Callum Hewitson's movement allowed them to drive into.

LS

Llantwit Major & District Darts League round-up

THE LMDDL winter league season entered its eighth week with the highlights being:

Birthday boy Stephen Deakin 180, Dilwyn Evans 180, Allan Morgan 180, Peter Evans 120 out, Nick Smith 116 out, Mark Harvey 102 out, Nigel George 93 out, Dai Randall 15 darter, Ray Procco 18 darter, Jeff Price 19 darter, Dai Sawyer 21 darter leg.

Monday 'C' League results: Tudor Tavern 'C2' 10, Kings Head 'C1' 1; Rugby Club 3, Lamb & Flag 'C1' 8; Lamb & Flag 'C2' 7, Boverton Castle 4; Wenvoe Arms 11, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 0; Kings Head 'C2' 2, Shoes St Athan 9.

Tuesday 'A' League results: Rugby Club 'A3' 4, Lamb & Flag 7; Rugby Club 'A2' 5, Tudor Tavern 6; Golden Cups 6, Four Bells 5; Fox & Hounds 4, Shoes Peterson 7; Wenvoe Arms 7, Rugby Club 'A1' 4; Kings Head 'A1' 10, Blacksmiths 1; Shoes St Athan 6, Kings Head 'A2' 5.

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- 13 RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Dynamique TT Energy 5-Dr In white, 39,000 miles, free road tax£6,995
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- 60 PEUGEOT 5008 Sport 1.6 Diesel 7-Seater In met-grey, 58,000 miles£6,995
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- 14 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Excite Ecoflex 5-Dr In red, 34,000 miles, £30 road tax£5,495
- 61 RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav£5,495
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- 59 CITROEN C3 1.4 VTR 5-Dr In black, 54,000 miles, low insurance£2,995
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Vale United dump St Athlan out of the Barry Cup

VALE United made it 11 wins out of 11 in all competitions as they dumped St Athlan out of the Barry Cup.

United came out on top in the battle of the top two in the Vale league to advance to the semi-finals. A classic cup tie saw both sides go at each other ferociously in a cracker of a game but it was Richard Evans and Jay Tominey's double that sealed the win for Vale after Reece Lewis had opened the scoring for Saints.

St Athlan lost Mark Drysdale and Joe Laing before kick off so it was returns to the starting line up for Nicky Cox and Josh Harfoot. Both sides came into the game full of confidence and on good winning runs but it was the home side who struck first; the supporters had barely shuffled in when Reece Lewis' corner eluded everyone and nestled in the far side of the net to give St Athlan the lead.

Saints' set pieces were causing havoc and Lewis' delivery saw Jordan Mortimore head over minutes later. Vale looked to fire back and their number 10 latched on to defensive error but could only lift his shot inches wide of the goal.

United were level 10 minutes in as Saints gave the ball away in midfield, the switch caught the home defence cold and a tangle saw the Vale winger brought down for a penalty. Richard Evans stepped up and not for the first time this season

made no mistake.

Saints regrouped and pushed to go back in front. James Austin saw a header off the line from a corner and then after a quick throw by Harfoot, Josh Morgan outpaced the Vale back line but the keeper denied the in-form forward with a fine save.

The game ebbed and flowered and now it was Vale's turn to apply the pressure and they saw an effort chipped narrowly wide and then a strike from the edge of the area palmed away by Deon Garrison.

Saints saw a well-worked Reece Lewis effort saved but then Richie Humphreys hobbled off with a hamstring injury, a major blow for the home team. United came at Saints to end the half and saw four good chances saved or off target; one in particular found the forward one on one with the keeper only to put the ball wide.

The second period saw Saints come out of the blocks quickly and Leigh Lewis fired wide. Karl Steel then turned on the pace to cruise down the flank. His cross was controlled by Leigh Lewis onto his right foot, but his looping effort was excellently saved.

It was Leigh Lewis at the centre of things again as he saw a header cleared off the line from a set piece.

Vale came back and saw a header well saved by Garrison as he palmed it onto the bar. United

then had the ball in the net but saw it ruled out for offside.

Finally the breakthrough came - a Vale corner was half cleared, the resulting cross dropped invitingly for Tominey and the Vale striker saw his first effort blocked but managed to fire in the rebound from close range.

Then minutes later Saints' misery was compounded as a long ball forward was missed and Tominey raced onto it, and finished calmly to give Vale a two goal cushion. St Athlan threw caution to the wind in an attempt to get back into it, and a formation change saw Phil Morgan introduced to the forward line.

Tremendous work from Josh Morgan saw him flash a ball across the goal, deflecting off a defender and falling agonisingly wide. Josh Morgan again carved open a chance but his low shot rebounded off the inside of the post then Phil Morgan saw the rebound superbly blocked.

Saints threw the kitchen sink at Vale and soon the feeling was that they could have played all night and the ball just would not go in, while Vale looked to pick Saints off on the break but couldn't convert.

Nicky Cox then saw red late on for a bad challenge and the final whistle arrived to confirm Saints' exit from the competition. An excellent cup tie between two very good sides, Vale now must be favourites for the cup.

St Athlan: Garrison, Cox, Young, Mortimore, Humphreys, Ashton, Austin, R.Lewis, Harfoot, L.Lewis, J.Morgan. Substitutes: Steel, P.Morgan.

We'd like to thank those who came out to support us and our sponsors, Owens Motor Services, Llandow, Diving & Marine Engineering, Green Future Landscaping, Llantwit Valet & Car Wash and The Four Bells in St Athlan.

Meanwhile in Wenvoe, St Athlan B made it two wins on the bounce as they beat third place BVFC 4-1.

Josh Howells was the star of the show as the wide man scored a memorable hat trick, with Craig Howells adding a fine fourth. A very good result that sees the seconds climb to fifth in Division Two.

St Athlan B: Stock, Richards, Robinson, Butcher, Cleave, Pickering, Campbell, George, J.Howells, Pugh, C.Howells. Substitutes: Burgess, Harry, Colwill, Wolfe.

Unbeaten start continues for Dinas ladies

DINAS Powys Ladies extended their unbeaten start to the season as they comfortably came out on top in the local derby against Barry Town Ladies.

Instructions were very simple - play on the front foot and play a high pressing game, not allowing the home side time and space to settle. Taylor Page opened the scoring with a cross-cum-shot from the left which eluded everyone and sailed into the goal in the first five minutes.

Dinas were very much on top and Barry were struggling to make inroads. Little Nao Yamanda was finding plenty of space and she curled an unstoppable strike from the edge of the box to double the lead.

As the half carried on the Barry forwards found the Dinas defence in no mood to give them any space, as Rachel Beare, Leanne Patternmore, Alex Allen and Kelly Tuck marshalled and organised themselves very well.

Molly Chapman was a

constant thorn in the home team's side with her tireless running and her ability to make something out of nothing resulting in a free kick roughly 25 yards out.

Skipper Leanne Patternmore didn't need a second invitation to fire it home to give the visitors a 3-0 lead at the break.

The Villagers introduced fresh legs in the second period but still offered enough pace to scare any teams with their attacking style.

Gemma Crowley and Laura Murray managed to link the play up very well at times. Following a number of knocks the second half fizzled out as both teams struggled to work the keepers.

In the last play of the match the Dinas left back Catrin O'Connell bravely won a header resulting in a nasty broken nose. The club, coaches and girls wish Cat all the best as she has to have it reset in a week's time.

Also, hopefully the knee injury to Barry's midfielder, Gabrielle Elizabeth Cates, wasn't as bad as it first looked.

LS

Barry & District tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:
League table: Liberals 61, Wyndham Cons 56, Moors Boys 51, Rhose Social 49.

Cadoxton Cons 48, West End 48, West End Runaways 47.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

League table: King William XII 31, Rhose Social B 31, West End D 29, West End C 26.5, Barries Boys 24, Allsorts 24, Rugby Club 23.5, Liberals C 23, Rhose Social A 22.5, Rhose Social C 20.5, Sea View B 15, Slammers 14.5, Cambrian Flyers 11.5, Liberals A 10.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Rhose Social C 2, Services Social B 3, Cadoxton Cons B 2, Wyndham Cons A 3, Penarth Cons A 2, Rhose Social B 3, Penarth Cons B 2, West End C 3.

League table: Savoy A 33, Harbour B 29, Cadoxton Cons Z 24,

Cadoxton Cons B 20, Rhose Social B 19, Wyndham Cons A 19, Penarth Cons A 19, Rhose Social C 15, Services Social B 15, West End C 14, Penarth Cons B 8.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Wyndham Cons C 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3, Savoy B 3, Liberators 2, West End B 3, Harbour A 2, Market Street C 4, Wyndham Cons D 1, West End A 2, Market Street B 3.

League table: Savoy B 26, Liberators 24, Wyndham Cons C 24, Harbour A 22, Market Street B 22, Market Street C 21, Cadoxton Cons A 19, Sully Sports A 17, West End A 17, West End B 16, Wyndham Cons D 12 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 1:

1st Mark Roderick & Peter Millar 71.88%; 2nd Irene Thomas & Jenny Vaughan 61.31%; 3rd Alan Jones & Lyn Matthews 57.14%. Mark Roderick and Peter Millar also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

Vale of Glamorgan Football round-up

IT was Barry Cup quarter-final weekend and there was a fine mix of a big game, a shock result and big scores as four teams progressed to the semi-finals in March. There was also a reduced league schedule but nonetheless entertaining.

The Vale United juggernaut rolled on as they made it 12 out of 12 in all competitions by defeating their biggest test so far, nearest rivals St Athlan, 3-1 in the big match of the day and must now be clear favourites for the cup.

Their old rivals Barry Belgrade pulled off somewhat of a cup upset to dump out Premier Division Cowbridge Town out of the cup, 4-1, while Island Marine cruised into the last four 5-0 against Cadoxton Barry. As of writing the Penarth Town and Rhose result was still unknown.

In the Premier Division Barry Athletic got back to winning ways in some style with an 8-0 win over bottom side Masons Moving Group who are still searching for their first point. Dinas Powys Athletic got their first win after three league defeats with a morale-boosting 3-0 victory over Tynewydd.

In Division One, Cogan Coronation bounced back after last week's set back to romp home 5-1 against bottom of the league Glenbrook to go fifth.

Dockers and Cadoxton Athletic played out a thrilling 3-3 draw while SP Billy were victorious 5-3 against Sully. SP were the only team in the top four in action, the result keeps them fourth but they are four points off leaders FC Pumas with a game in hand.

In Division Two, league leaders Cadoxton Imps beat Barry Albion 2-0 to stretch their 100 per cent record to 11 games and go nine points clear of Barry Saints, who lost 4-2 to second bottom Rhose B in a shock result. St Athlan B made it two on the bounce as they put third place BVFC to the sword, 4-1, to go fifth.

This week there are no senior fixtures after the FAW postponed the games due to the national team playing Serbia in the evening.

The league returns on November 19 with a full league schedule with games of the day coming in Division One and Two.

Division One champions Cogan host league leaders FC Pumas and the top two on Division Two play each other as Cadoxton Imps face Barry Saints, a must-win for the latter. **HD**

Cowbridge under-16s back to winning ways

COWBRIDGE under-16s got back to winning ways with a comprehensive away win at CRICC.

The squad performed extremely well with two forwards making their debuts in the back line due to a number of long term injuries to the regular backs. Andy Davies (hooker) stood in at the last minute to play on the wing, while Ben Jones (open-side flanker) stood in at inside centre.

Cowbridge started much brighter than their hosts. Unfortunately, from the kick off CRICC knocked the ball on, giving Cowbridge an

attacking scrum just outside their opponent's 22.

With good clean ball the Cowbridge backs moved their larger CRICC opposite numbers from one side of the field to the other and back again. Harry Ridge finished off a well executed team try in the left hand corner.

Virtually straight from the restart, Cowbridge were back inside the CRICC 22. A clean line break by Jones was well supported by Ruben Williams, who was tackled just inside the CRICC 22.

Ioan Williams sniped right, and with a couple of simple passes, Andy Davies the hooker-cum-

Winger, went over in the far right hand corner. CRICC responded well and put Cowbridge under an enormous amount of defensive pressure. For the rest of the first half Cowbridge were camped in their own 22.

With fearless defence and excellent discipline Cowbridge defended their line from wave after wave of CRICC attack. The half-time score was CRICC 0, Cowbridge 10.

After some strong words from the coaches at half-time, Cowbridge came out on the attack at the beginning of the second half and increased their lead 10 minutes into the second half with a simple but well-executed backs move. Iestyn Fenn stole another lineout from the CRICC team and delivered great turnover ball to Ioan Williams.

Williams fed Evan Thomas who with a simple dummy switch, followed by a great pass off his left, put Ridge in the clear just inside the CRICC 10 metre line. Ridge showed great pace to make it to the corner without an opponents hand being laid on him. Ioan Williams converted the try from the right hand touchline.

Cowbridge's final try was a carbon copy of their third. Fenn stole another lineout, Thomas fired a great long pass off his left, missing out both his centres, this time putting Jack Dixon into space.

Dixon, nursing a thigh strain, showed great athleticism by side stepping his opposite number and making it to the corner. Unfortunately this time Williams was unable to make the conversion because he had a sore toe. The final score CRICC 0, Cowbridge 22. **GJ**

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

THE Edmondson B beat Llanharri 5-4, but with the Six Bells Inn winning 7-2 at the Victoria Inn, their lead at the top of the table is now down to one point. These two teams are now opening up a small gap at the top.

Third-placed team the Highwayman Inn beat the Farmers Arms 6-3, but are now only one point above the Edmondson A after they won 9-0 against the Red Lion.

In this match, Trevor Morgan (Edmondson A) became the fifth player this season to hit a three-dart-out over 100. His 107 out was double 19, single 19 and the bull.

In the remaining match of the evening the Hairys Farmers defeated the Edmondson C 5-4. It was a good night of darts for Tim Lewis (Six Bells) at the Victoria Inn, going out twice on the bull and also achieving the highest out at the venue

of 86. Present league standings, after seven weeks, are: Edmondson B (44 points), Six Bells Inn (43), Highwayman Inn (39), Edmondson A (38), Llanharri (34), Farmers Arms and Edmondson C (30), Hairys Farmers (29), Victoria Inn (24) and Red Lion (4).

Next week (Tuesday, November 15) a full programme of league matches is scheduled.

The Edmondson B hosts the Edmondson A, the Hairys Farmers hosts the Victoria Inn, the Edmondson C hosts Llanharri, the Six Bells Inn hosts the Farmers Arms and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Red Lion.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.dartsapns.co.uk.

PJT

Jo takes on bowls role

ON Tuesday, October 18, the AGM of Glamorgan County Womens Bowling Association was held at the High Tide Conference Centre in Porthcawl.

There was a very good attendance with ladies from all the various clubs affiliated to the Glamorgan Ladies Bowling Association.

Mrs Ann Smith from Whitchurch Bowls Club was duly elected as president for the forthcoming season, and Miss Joanna Hopkins from Rhose Bowls Club was elected as vice-president; this is the first time for a member of Rhose Bowls Club to hold such an honoured position on the County Executive.

Jo has been a member of Rhose Bowls Club from the day it opened in 1990 and has held the position of secretary for a



number of years; she is also a qualified coach and umpire and so has a vast experience.

Many of the ladies from Rhose Bowls Club were in attendance to support Jo, and to join her after at the lunch and presentation of prizes for the winners who took part in all the county competitions throughout the summer - well done to them.

A great day was had by all, and we look forward to supporting Jo throughout the coming year.

RC



WALES 8 - AUSTRALIA 32 WOEFUL START TO AUTUMN TESTS, BUT...



THERE CAN BE NO REPEAT OF DISMAL SHOW AGAINST AUSTRALIA Walloped by Wallabies, now Dragon must get fired up to avoid pummelling by Pumas



LEFT:
Engulfed up
front, where the
men from Oz kept
a stranglehold on
proceedings; and
RIGHT:
defence ripped
apart behind as
gold shirts
enjoyed the
freedom of the
park, it was a
miserable
afternoon for
the men in red.

Pictures by Huw
Evans Agency.



AFTER watching a strangely-lethargic Wales team steamrollered aside and lucky to concede only five tries in a one-sided Wallaby onslaught, at a subdued Principality Stadium on Saturday, stand-in head coach Robert Howley tried hard to put some gloss on what he admitted was a “very disappointing, very frustrating display.”

If anything, it was something of an understatement, for it has been a while since such a listless Welsh team has been so comprehensively dismantled on home turf, with many spectators reviving gloomy memories of times past by heading for the exits long before the final whistle sounded.

Almost from the outset, a totally one-sided opening half saw far more dynamic opponents claiming over 80 per cent possession and territory – and they were all but out of sight (20-3) by the interval.

Oddly, the home coach insisted afterwards – “It wasn’t so much the speed and intensity” – adding, “It was just how good the Wallabies were with ball in hand, and how effective they were at the breakdown.”

Quite so! But it surely had more to do with dire Welsh shortcomings, both in defence and attack, that made the impressive men from Oz look like world beaters, rather than a team that had fallen well short in games of late, including the 3-0 test whitewash in their own backyard, at the hands of England; a cause for reflection by the Welsh camp with those two sides again set to lock horns later in the Australians’ UK tour.

That result and Ireland’s astounding 40-29 win over world champions, could

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

well put Saturday’s 8-32 defeat in Cardiff into even more sobering perspective.

Admitting that “the boys were despondent coming in at half time”, Howley repeated an oft heard refrain – “the more you play sides like this, the more you learn”.

There is obviously a great deal of truth in that statement, but in this professional age of rising admission/travel costs etc, even rugby’s famously loyal, infinitely patient fans could hardly be blamed for questioning when a learning process will end for a team boasting upwards of 800 international caps!

Of the five to one try deficit against Australia, Howley said – “defensively, we could have been better, particularly, structurally. I think we made a few wrong reads, and we were staying in the lane – but that was down to the speed of the ball...”

It was certainly true of a bleak first half, with rampant Australians running free and offloading at pace against bemused defenders, who appeared leaden-footed and pedestrian in comparison.

True, things did markedly improve after the change-over, when the cavalry – in the shape of Welsh replacements, including an entire front row and fresh halfbacks – were sent onto the field and, as Howley observed, “I thought we grew into the game in the second half, when the share of possession was 50-50”.

They also managed a well-worked try by Scott Williams, to add to returning

Leigh Halfpenny’s first half penalty; which in turn was in response to a penalty and three first half Oz tries, plus two more in the second half.

It gave some credence to the view that the team’s below-par display was down to Wales’ notorious tendency to start off slowly, then gradually improve in series competition – as has often been the case in previous autumn tests and the Six Nations.

Let us hope this proves to be the case, for the games are only going to get tougher, with rapidly-developing Argentina next up in the Under Armour Series 2016 at the Principality Stadium on Saturday (kick-off 5.30pm).

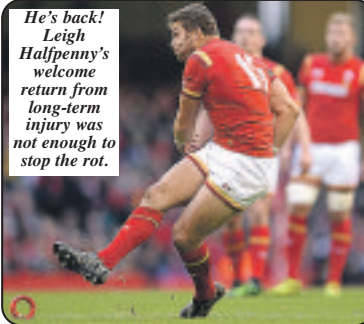
Hardened in regular battle with the southern hemisphere giants, there will be no letting up in intensity by a team that are no longer noted only for formidable, but limited pack power (though they will no doubt be keen to put the Welsh eight to the test up front after Saturday’s showing!)

Under the influence of the All Blacks *et al*, they are fast expanding their game and should also pose a serious threat to Welsh play out wide.

Just as was the case against Australia, on paper, this talented Welsh squad is well-equipped to meet the challenge – provided, of course, that there is not another painfully ‘slow start’ – for that will be even more ruthlessly punished by the predatory Pumas.

Realistically, a week is not a lot of time to put right so many things that went wrong against Wallabies, who were given free licence to roam the wide open

He’s back!
Leigh
Halfpenny’s
welcome
return from
long-term
injury was
not enough to
stop the rot.



spaces, as though on the training park.

No-nonsense defence coach Shaun Edwards (who admitted to being outflanked by Oz attack coach Stephen Larkham), will no doubt have read players the riot act over the many missed tackles which contributed to a woeful team effort that produced one of the heaviest home defeats seen at the stadium for many a year.

Of most concern, though, was the sheer lack of urgency and enterprise shown by a team that, after all, had been together for a good two weeks beforehand.

It was all in sharp contrast to gutsy Ireland’s all-action heroics in taking the game to ‘invincible’ All Blacks and imposing a remarkable 40-29 defeat on the world champions in Chicago at the weekend – a rare event that other teams can only dream about!

What greater incentive could there be for Wales, with an armoury every bit the equal of Ireland’s, to shake off the torpor that seemed to engulf the entire team on Saturday, and get the autumn tests back on track with a more dynamic, winning display against Argentina?